Los Angeles Times

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Can Fox stay on top sans Carlson?

Ouster leaves cable news leader without its top-rated host, but it's a familiar script for Murdoch's network.

By Stephen Battaglio

The end of a long-running hit show can be a sobering moment for a TV network.

The finale of "Friends" ended the seemingly unstoppable run of NBC's "Must See TV." HBO had to brace for a future without "Game of Thrones."

Now Fox News is facing the same challenge after its most-watched prime-time personality, Tucker Carlson, was suddenly yanked from his perch Monday amid the scandals and lawsuits facing Rupert Murdoch's conservative network.

Guest host Brian Kilmeade, a co-host on "Fox & Friends," filled in for Carlson on Monday night, and others will rotate until a permanent replacement is named for the 8 p.m. Eastern hour.

Is it the beginning of the end for Fox News' run as the cable news ratings leader since 2002 and as a powerful and disruptive influence in political discourse?

Not likely, history shows.

Liberals hate Fox News and critics call it right-wing propaganda. But Carlson's departure won't end its status as a refuge for an audience wanting to marinate in "anti-woke" commentary, Hunter Biden embarrassments, immigration and any other outrage of the day bugging conservative pundits.

The Fox News viewer chooses that environment even with a different voice delivering those missives. When Bill O'Reilly, Megyn Kelly and Glenn Beck were shown the door, the network replaced them without missing a beat.

[See **Fox News,** A11]

Maybe this is a good week for news media after all

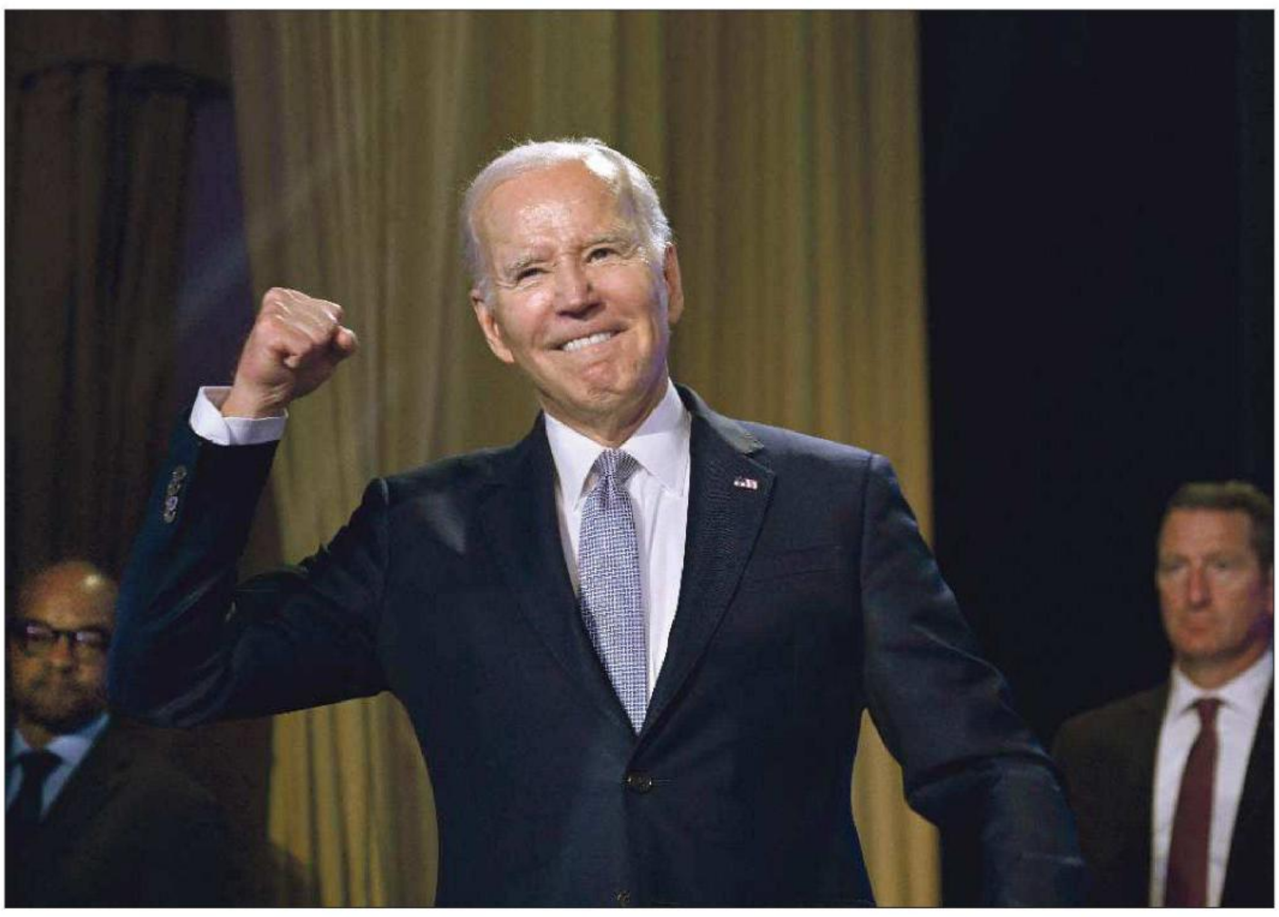
MARY McNAMARA

For those of us who hoped that things had changed, that all the post-Harvey Weinstein #MeToo pledges from the entertainment and media industries to "do better, be better" were sincere, Monday was a very complicated day.

On Sunday, NBCUniversal Chief Executive Jeff Shell was ousted for what he called having an "inappropriate relationship." On Monday, that was revealed to be the subject of a sexual harassment suit filed by CNBC correspondent Hadley Gamble. That same day, both ends of the political spectrum took hits with the near-simultaneous firings of Fox News host Tucker Carlson and CNN host Don Lemon.

There are myriad possible causes for Carlson getting canned — his role in the Dominion lawsuit that cost Fox $787 million revealed his contempt for not only the truth and human decency but also for many of his Fox News colleagues and superiors. But many with insider knowledge are citing a lawsuit filed by his former booking producer Abby Grossberg accusing Carlson of harassment and sexism.

[See **McNamara,** A9]



Jim Watson AFP/Getty Images

"LET'S FINISH the job! ... We're on the cusp of major change," President Biden said at a labor conference in Washington on Tuesday after his announcement video went live. He was met with chants of "four more years!"

BIDEN KICKS OFF RUN FOR 2ND TERM

He dismisses concerns about his age, framing 2024 as a 'battle for the soul of America.'

By Courtney Subramanian

WASHINGTON — President Biden announced Tuesday that he will seek the presidency again in 2024, dismissing doubts about whether he'll be fit to start a second term when he's 82, and imploring Americans to let him "finish the job" of preserving a democracy he says is threatened by Republican extremism.

The president announced his campaign in a three-minute video posted to his Twitter account.

"I said we are in a battle for the soul of America, and we still are," Biden said in a video featuring images of him and Vice President Kamala Harris — who will be on the ticket again — crisscrossing the country.

The 2024 election is a choice between "more freedom or less freedom. More rights or fewer," he said.

The much-anticipated announcement sets up a potential rematch between Biden and former President Trump, who has already declared his candidacy and leads the field of Republican 2024 hopefuls.

Biden, a self-described "great respecter of fate," has weighed the decision for months amid speculation about whether he would run again at his age: The nation's oldest president, he will be just shy of 82 on election day in 2024.

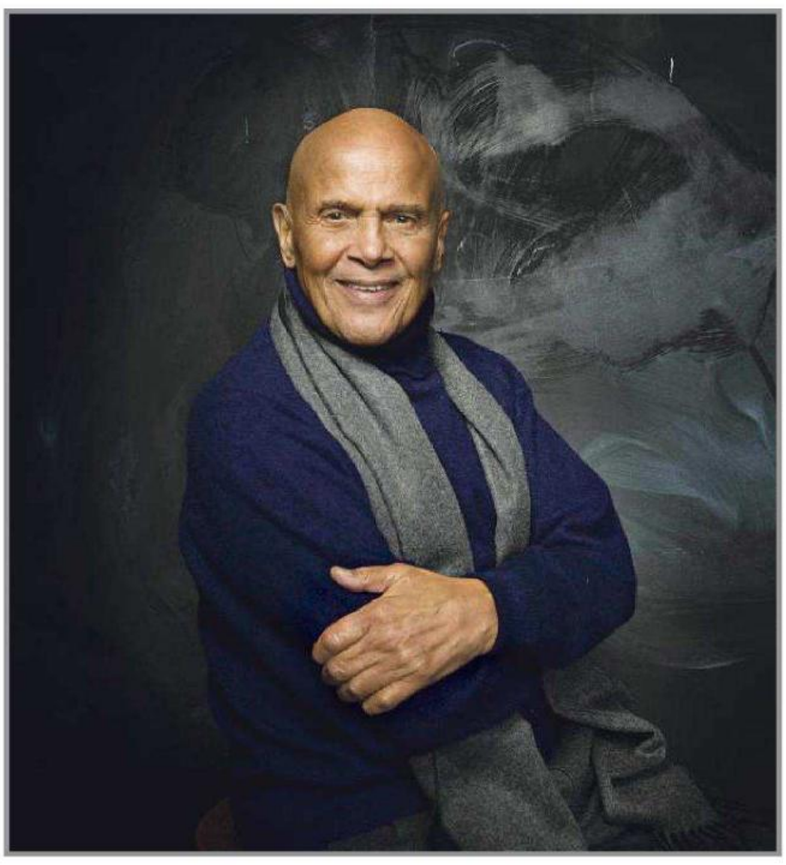
Seventy percent of Americans, including 51% of Democrats, said in an NBC poll released Sunday that they didn't want Biden to seek a second term, compared with 26% of Americans who said they want him to run. Nearly half of all voters in the poll who said they didn't want Biden to run again pointed to his age as a major reason.

Similarly, about half of Democrats surveyed think Biden should run for a second term, an increase from the 37% who said in January that he should seek office again, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll released Friday. But 81% of Democrats said they would probably support him

[See **Biden,** A9]

HARRY BELAFONTE, 1927 - 2023

Trailblazing singer and actor was a key ally in fight for civil rights



Victoria Will Associated Press

BARRIER BREAKER

With his charm and Caribbean folk songs, Harry Belafonte shot to stardom in the 1950s, becoming the first artist with an album to go platinum. His Tony and Emmy wins were firsts for a Black man.

By Dennis McLellan

Segregation was rampant, doors were closed and, in 1950s America, the odds of a Black entertainer ascending to the Broadway stage, concert venues and screens large and small seemed impossibly long.

Yet with cool confidence, a magnetic charm and an armload of wistful Caribbean folk songs, Harry Belafonte beat those odds in a historic rise to stardom — the first Black man to win a Tony, the first Black man to win an Emmy, the first artist to record an album that sold 1 million copies.

Well aware of the battles still to be fought, Belafonte also became a civil rights activist, a confidant to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., a friend of the marginalized and a globe-trotting humanitarian.

"I've got to be a part of whatever the rebellion is that tries to change all this," he told the New York Times in 2001. "The anger is a necessary fuel. Rebellion is healthy."

Long a symbol of what was right and decent in the world, Belafonte died Tuesday at his home in New York of congestive heart failure with his wife, Pamela, at his side, his longtime spokesman Ken Sunshine said. Belafonte was 96.

Belafonte, who fueled an international calypso craze in the 1950s with his addictive version of "The Banana Boat Song," squeezed so much into his decades-long career that it was difficult to fathom it all.

[See **Belafonte,** A8]

"KING OF THE GREEK": For decades, Angelenos flocked to Griffith Park to see Belafonte, Greg Braxton writes. **CALENDAR, E1**

Newsom visits flood-threatened Central Valley

Governor pledges aid ahead of an expected heat wave that will accelerate snowmelt.

By Hayley Smith

CORCORAN, Calif. — Water lapped Tuesday at the edges of 6th Avenue, where thousands of acres of once-fertile farmland sat sodden beneath several feet of stagnant floodwater.

The problem, state officials said, is only going to get worse in the days and weeks to come as temperatures rise and record-deep snowpack in the southern Sierra Nevada begins to melt and make its way downhill.

"You can look at a scene like this and think the worst is going to recede, the worst is behind us, but in fact, quite the contrary," said Gov. Gavin Newsom, who was visiting Corcoran to survey flood damage from winter storms. In the distance, a farmer steered a boat through the flooded Tulare Lake Basin, which only weeks ago was home to cotton plants, corn, wheat, tomatoes and other crops.

"Every day, you're seeing an incremental half-inch or inch of more water, new water, present itself here in this basin," Newsom said. "As a consequence, we not only need to maintain our vigilance, but we can't be impatient in terms of the impending floods and the damage that will occur here in a very short order."

The flooding that has al-

[See **Flooding,** A6]

Marcio Jose Sanchez Associated Press

GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM on Tuesday visits a field in Alpaugh, Calif., that flooded from storms. More water is entering the Tulare Lake Basin every day, he said.

Clippers get boot in playoffs

Fourth-quarter rally not enough as L.A. loses opening series to Phoenix. **SPORTS, B12**

Life sentences in boy's murder

Anthony Avalos' mom and her boyfriend get the maximum penalty. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Police chases' troubling toll

Half of people injured in LAPD pursuits are bystanders, report says. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Bud Light facing fallout

Two execs put on leave amid conservatives' anti-trans backlash. **BUSINESS, A10**

Weather: Some sun. L.A. Basin: 78/55. **B6**

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The GOP's one-stop shop for dumb fiscal ideas

MICHAEL HILTZIK

The idea of imposing work requirements on Medicaid recipients has a long and distinguished history. Distinguished, that is, by pointlessness and failure.

Healthcare experts and economists have long argued that work requirements achieve nothing but threatening thousands of people with the loss of their health benefits, don't increase employment, are expensive to administer and are utterly unnecessary.

They're correct on all counts. So of course House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) has made the idea a centerpiece of his package of conditions for increasing the federal debt ceiling by $1.5 trillion through next March.

McCarthy dubbed the package, unveiled April 19, the Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023 and said it would, among other things, "lift Americans out of poverty."

One can only assume that this is some sort of a gag. The GOP proposal would gut Medicaid and food stamp eligibility for millions of Americans, including 21 million Medicaid enrollees alone, according to the Department of Health and Human Services. It would turn the clock back on efforts to wean the U.S. from fossil fuels and prepare for the next inevitable pandemic.

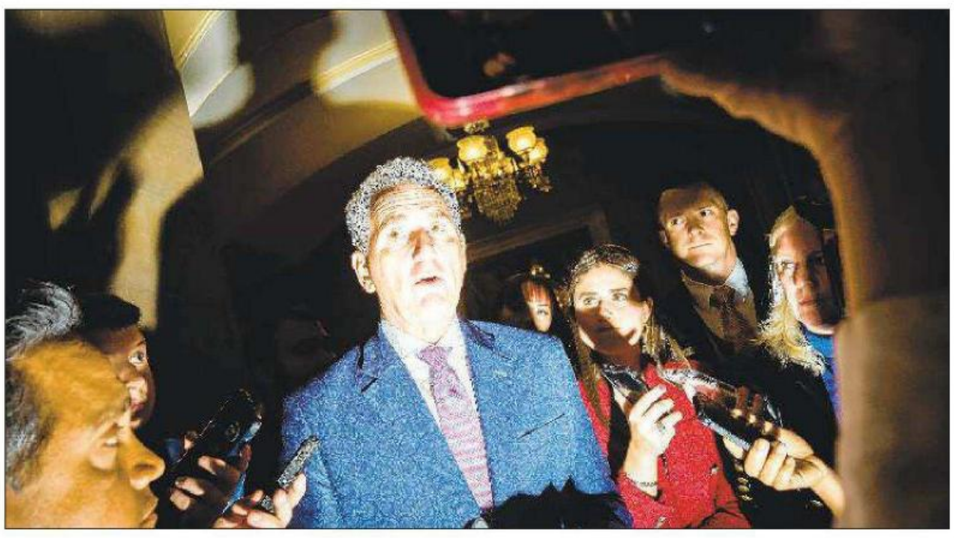
It would increase the burden on people struggling with student debt and throttle an untold number of nondefense programs such as anti-pollution enforcement and consumer protection. It would roll back tax enforcement, giving the green light to tax evasion by the rich.

It is, in short, a one-stop shop for every chuckleheaded idea that Republicans have cooked up to undermine the public interest over the decades.

For a marker on how bad it is, consider that the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, which carries forward the fiscal campaign against ordinary Americans originally funded by the late private equity billionaire Peter G. Peterson, labels it "a reasonable proposal" and "a serious package of savings."

It's also dead on arrival. There's no way that the Biden White House or the Senate Democratic majority would contemplate passing the thing.

At 320 pages, McCarthy's bill is too long to cover in exhaustive detail, so let's focus on a few of its more cynical and egregious provisions.



KENT NISHIMURA Los Angeles Times

HOUSE Speaker Kevin McCarthy has proposed work requirements for Medicaid, along with a host of other awful moves, as conditions for raising the debt ceiling.

But first, let's dispense with the lie at the heart of the debt ceiling fight, which is that the ceiling is a rational and effective check on federal spending. In fact, it's the most infantile feature of federal fiscal policy. McCarthy repeated this lie in introducing his bill: "If you gave your child a credit card and they kept maxing out the limit, you wouldn't blindly raise the limit," he said. "You'd change their behavior."

With these words, McCarthy told on himself. The "behavior" at hand is Congress' willingness to pass spending bills and cut federal revenues through tax cuts.

Congress is the child with the credit card; refusing to raise the debt ceiling to accommodate its own spending is tantamount to refusing to pay the bill when it comes due. In the household context, that refusal will land a person in Bankruptcy Court; when Congress refuses to pay its bills by refusing to raise the debt limit, the consequences could be a sharp rise in interest rates on debt and a crashed economy.

Now to the particulars. In general terms, the act rolls back nondefense spending to the level of fiscal 2022 and allows it to grow by no more than 1% a year. That's not a "limit," but a formula for increasingly draconian cuts in nondefense programs, because the annual increases won't accommodate inflation or population growth.

By some estimates, that would result in a real reduction of as much as 58% in affected programs over 10 years. Obviously, the reduction in services would be severe.

Under the guise of deficit reduction, the Republican bill takes aim at Biden administration initiatives that the GOP was unable to defeat on the floors of Congress or by making a credible appeal to voters.

It would rescind President Biden's plan to give student loan borrowers relief of up to $20,000 on their debt and expand income-driven payment plans, which limit repayments to a percentage of borrowers' income, cap interest rates at 5% and forgive outstanding balances after one or two decades of payments.

McCarthy slanders this program as "a giveaway for the wealthy." The truth is that the Congressional Budget Office estimates that 95% of borrowers eligible for debt relief have incomes of $125,000 or less and two-thirds were recipients of federal Pell Grants, which go to low-income students.

McCarthy must think that mischaracterizing the program will allow him to look like a working-class hero by canceling it. He's wrong. It only makes him look like a liar.

The real giveaway to the wealthy in McCarthy's plan is his repeal of Biden's augmented budget for the Internal Revenue Service. The Inflation Reduction Act, which Biden signed in August, allocated $80 billion in new funding for the IRS over 10 years.

McCarthy repeated the canard that the money would pay for an "army of 87,000 IRS agents." Not so. The new hires — 87,000 over 10 years — include customer service representatives and technicians, as well as enforcement agents.

Some of the money would indeed pay for better pursuit of tax cheats. McCarthy's proposal to repeal the budget increase even led the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget to a moment of clarity: It estimated that the repeal would worsen the federal deficit by $100 billion over a decade.

Through the Limit, Save, Grow Act, the House GOP would march blindly into a future likely to bite Americans where they live if it remains unaddressed.

The act pretends that global warming doesn't exist. So it would repeal the Inflation Reduction Act's incentives for renewable energy, reportedly at the insistence of the most extreme right-wing members of McCarthy's precarious House majority.

What's notably missing from a measure advertised as a deficit reduction proposal is any hint of increasing federal revenues, say by repealing the 2017 Republican tax cuts, which heavily favored the wealthy and blew a hole in the budget estimated at $1.5 trillion over a decade.

That's the clearest indication that Biden was correct when he ridiculed the proposal Tuesday in a speech launching his campaign for reelection. He called it "the same old trickle-down dressed up in MAGA clothing."

That brings us back to where we started, with work requirements for Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or food stamps).

The record shows that these requirements are disastrous for beneficiaries, which may be the goal, since their underlying motivation is punitive. They became especially popular under Trump, whose Health and Human Services Department gleefully approved work requirements for Medicaid despite clear evidence that they were illegal.

How did that work out? In Arkansas, the only state that was able to implement work requirements before a federal judge blocked them, 18,000 enrollees lost their coverage over the two years the rules were in effect.

A study team from Harvard's School of Public Health found that among the disenrolled, 50% reported "serious problems paying off medical debt," 56% delayed care because of its cost and 64% delayed taking medications because of their cost.

"We found no evidence that the policy succeeded in its stated goal of promoting work," the researchers wrote, "and instead found substantial evidence of harm to healthcare coverage and access."

The failure to increase employment wasn't surprising: More than 95% of the target population was already working or was exempt. But the process to establish that their working hours met the rules was so complicated that thousands lost their coverage because of confusion.

As for SNAP, research indicates that work requirements reduce participation in the program by more than half. The rules fall disproportionately on homeless people and those unable to work for reasons that have nothing to do with laziness.

So let's see the Limit, Save, Grow Act for what it is: not a deficit reduction proposal but an attempt to take the U.S. economy as a hostage to a right-wing effort to undo almost every initiative crafted over the last two years to make life better and healthier for ordinary Americans.

The feckless speaker accuses Biden and the Democrats of "playing partisan political games" by refusing to negotiate with him over the debt ceiling. But there's nothing in his plan *except* partisan political games. Unfortunately, the future of the U.S. economy hangs in the balance.

Hiltzik writes a blog on latimes.com. Follow him on Facebook or on Twitter @hiltzikm or email michael.hiltzik@latimes.com.

Clock is ticking on debt limit date

Treasury officials are running out of moves to avoid default as Biden confronts GOP over its plan for cuts.

By Josh Boak

WASHINGTON — In January, the U.S. government ran up against its legal borrowing limit of $31.381 trillion, and the Treasury Department began implementing "extraordinary measures" to avoid missing payments on its bills.

That started speculation about the "X-date" — the date when those measures would be exhausted and the government might actually default if the limit on federal borrowing is not lifted. The X-date could be reached as early as June, depending on how much money the IRS collects in April from people filing their taxes.

How big of a problem is the debt limit stalemate?

This might be the time to be getting a bit worried as more than three months have passed with little progress. There is only so long these accounting workarounds can last before President Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) need to reach a deal to lift the debt cap. McCarthy is calling for trillions of dollars in spending cuts over the decade in return for an increase, and Biden insists that any talks about government finances should not occur with the threat of an economy-wrecking default hanging over lawmakers.

The Democratic president and Republican congressional leader have each tried to assure the public in recent weeks that they don't want the government of the world's largest economy to default. But Biden has resisted McCarthy's calls for negotiations, and McCarthy is pushing a plan that can't pass the Democratic-majority Senate.

These talks often grow heated and go down to the wire, with major economic damage in the balance. But there have been roughly 80 deals to raise or suspend the borrowing cap since the 1960s. What possibly makes this time different is the degree of political polarization, which could possibly lead to the U.S. government missing payments and triggering a global economic meltdown.

What are 'extraordinary measures' the U.S. has?

To keep the government open, the Treasury Department in January began a series of accounting maneuvers that would put a hold on contributions and investment redemptions for government workers' retirement and healthcare funds, giving the government enough financial space to handle its day-to-day expenses until roughly June.

By suspending payments, the government can reduce the amount of outstanding debt, enabling the Treasury to keep financing government operations.

What happens if these "extraordinary measures" are exhausted without a debt limit deal is unknown. A prolonged default could be devastating, with crashing markets and panic-driven layoffs if confidence evaporated in a cornerstone of the global economy, the U.S. Treasury note.

How common is this?

"Treasury Secretaries in every Administration over recent decades have used these extraordinary measures when necessary," Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen wrote in her initial letter about the measures.

The measures were first deployed in 1985 and have been used at least 16 times since then, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a fiscal watchdog.

Why do we have a debt limit in the first place?

Before World War I, Congress needed to approve each bond issuance. The debt limit was created as a workaround to finance the war effort without needing a constant series of votes.

Since then, a tool created to make it easier for the government to function has become a source of dysfunction, stoking partisan warfare and creating economic risk as the debt has increased in size.

How risky is the brinkmanship this time?

It looks alarming — and it's unclear how Biden, McCarthy and the Democratic Senate will find common ground. A default could cause millions of job losses, a deep recession that would reverberate globally and, ironically, higher interest rates that would make it harder to manage the federal debt.

On Fox News, McCarthy defended his plan in a Sunday interview by noting that even Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.), backed a 1% spending cap on discretionary spending. McCarthy said Biden was putting the country at risk of defaulting by refusing to hold talks.

"The idea that he won't even negotiate for more than 80 days, he is now putting the country in default," McCarthy said.

Biden called the plan that McCarthy unveiled last week "wacko," with a White House analysis showing that the spending caps would hurt schooling for children, healthcare for veterans, and food aid for families and seniors, and cause housing costs to climb for the country's poorest households. The president's budget plan announced in March would reduce deficits by nearly $3 trillion over the next 10 years, primarily through tax increases on the wealth and corporations.

"America is not a deadbeat nation," Biden said. "Take default off the table."

Boak writes for the Associated Press.

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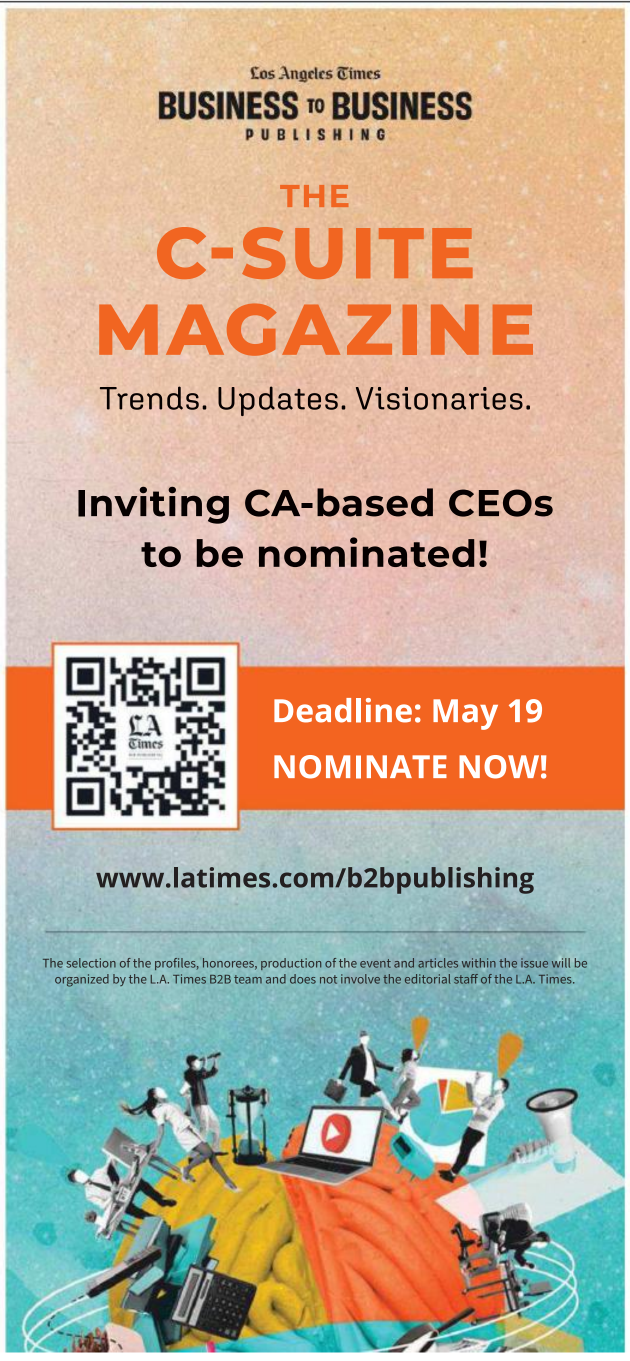

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Global trade, U.S. credibility at stake in Sudan

Conflict has upended political transition and imperils stability at a time Russia seeks to exert greater sway.

By Tracy Wilkinson

Italian Defense Ministry

DESPITE a cease-fire, many observers believe Sudan is on the brink of all-out civil war. Evacuation efforts are underway at the airport in Khartoum, the capital.

WASHINGTON — After 10 days of brutal urban warfare that has killed hundreds, a tenuous cease-fire is in place in Sudan, brokered by the United States with assistance from Saudi Arabia.

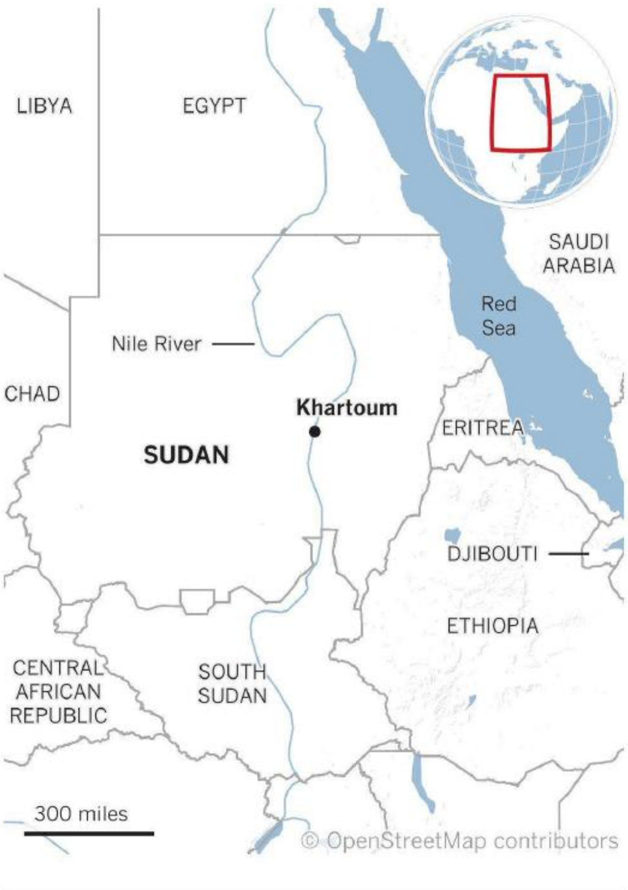
U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and a high-level team spent hours on the telephone over the last week, speaking directly to the two Sudanese generals leading opposing sides of the conflict, as well as other key actors from half a dozen nations.

The United States has long taken a major role behind developments in Sudan, in ending the dictatorship of Omar Hassan Ahmed Bashir and in attempting to usher the country into democracy — an effort that has failed perilously so far.

"The Sudanese people are not giving up, and neither will we," said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Molly Phee, as she announced over the weekend the indefinite closing of the nation's embassy in Khartoum after American special forces airlifted nearly 100 U.S. diplomats from the Sudanese capital in a high-security mission in the dead of night.

She noted continuing efforts to suspend fighting amid profound distrust between the warring parties. There is no guarantee the cease-fire will hold, and many observers believe Sudan is on the brink of all-out civil war.

"Despite these challenges," Phee said, "the stakes are too high for Sudan and for the region to stop trying."



Paul Duginski Los Angeles Times

Sudan may not be on the top of the agenda for many Americans, but the stakes in the northeastern African country are, indeed, high for the United States, as well as Sudan and the entire region, diplomats and analysts say.

From its strategically critical geographic location to its long, hard quest for freedom from military rule, Sudan has proved an appealing partner for the U.S. and a potential model for political transition in Africa.

A country of 46 million people, Sudan straddles the Nile River and sits on the Red Sea, which serves as the artery for more than $700 billion in ocean-transiting global trade.

Since it also borders six countries, Sudan is a bridge between northern Africa — the primarily Arabic countries of Egypt and Libya — and the Sahel, a strip stretching from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Red Sea, skirting numerous countries and laying a hotbed for jihadi terrorist groups. And to the south is Ethiopia.

This makes Sudan a linchpin in regional peace, commerce and political development. Aside from the devastating human toll, Sudan's instability poses major threats to the economy.

"The way Sudan falls will fundamentally shape whether the region is stable or violent," said Susan Stigant, head of the Africa programs at the U.S. Institute of Peace. A Sudan in chaos would probably disrupt maritime security and could give Islamic extremist groups such as the Somali-based Shabab a new foothold in the region.

Neighboring Chad, a strong U.S. ally, would also be vulnerable to spillover violence from Sudan.

The U.S. has invested political capital in Sudan's fate for decades. U.S. officials pushed for the prosecution of accused war criminals responsible for the genocide in western Sudan's Darfur region in the early 2000s, in which hundreds of thousands of people were killed.

In response, Washington levied heavy economic sanctions on Bashir-ruled Sudan and placed the country on an especially ignominious State Department shortlist: state sponsors of terrorism. In 2019, the people of Sudan rose up in a massive nonviolent protest, risking harsh crackdowns while demanding freedom, justice and an end to three decades of dictatorship under Bashir.

The longtime president was deposed. Democratic change seemed to be in the offing, with a new transitional government seated and the enthusiastic backing of the United States, Europe and other countries.

"As an American value, it is so rare to have a demand so clear, so organized, that the U.S. can get behind," Stigant said.

But two years later, Sudan's top two military commanders — to hold on to power and to avoid being held accountable for Darfur atrocities — staged a coup. Now, those two men are squaring off against each other, both with outsize ambitions to lead the country. Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan heads the Sudanese armed forces, and his former No. 2 and now archrival, Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti, marshals the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF. Despite some calls from Washington and elsewhere for outsiders to stay out, Egypt is said to back Burhan, and the United Arab Emirates stands with Hemedti and the RSF.

The generals and other members of the elite are said to have gotten wealthy from Sudan's abundance of gold and other valuable mineral resources, while the wealth never filtered down to ordinary people. The resources often inoculated leaders against the U.S. sanctions, which in turn prevented American investment in Sudanese mines and infrastructure.

Another risk for U.S. interests in Sudan comes from Russia. For several years, the infamous Wagner Group, a Kremlin-backed private military company, has been active in Sudan, initially supporting Bashir in December 2017 while securing gold exports for a Russian company.

Jeffrey Feltman, the former U.S. special envoy for the Horn of Africa, said "very nefarious" Russian activity continued to be documented during the fledgling democratic transition. The Russians, Feltman said in an extensive report last year, were "trying to basically disrupt a civilian transition."

Not surprisingly, Wagner — which gained infamy this last year in its ruthless front-line battles in Russia's war against Ukraine but has been operating in more than two dozen other countries — backed the 2021 military coup and is now jockeying for continued advantage. Russia has also long coveted a port on the Red Sea.

The Wagner Group has sufficient military assets and a masterful disinformation apparatus to be able to continue to meddle in the conflict in Sudan while maintaining deniability, analysts said.

This poses another challenge to U.S. interests.

"When we see them [the Wagner Group] engage in any country, we find that country ends up being more vulnerable, more prone to destabilization, more prone to threats," State Department spokesman Vedant Patel said Tuesday. "And so, we are working collectively with our allies and partners to curb the influence of the Wagner Group, of course on the African continent but elsewhere as well."

Washington has lost a lot of diplomatic, political and economic ground to Russia — and even more to China — in places such as Africa and Latin America in the last decade.

The Biden administration is attempting to make the case in Sudan and elsewhere that the U.S. should be the preferred partner. But the chaos in Sudan will make that argument all the more murky.

Taliban kills bombing mastermind

Islamic State leader was behind the Kabul airport attack in 2021 that left 13 Americans and 170 Afghans dead.

By Farnoush Amiri,
Matthew Lee
and Aamer Madhani

Carolyn Kaster Associated Press

PRESIDENT Biden and wife Jill attend a ceremony for a sailor killed during the 2021 Afghanistan pullout.

WASHINGTON — The Taliban has killed the senior Islamic State group leader behind the August 2021 suicide bombing outside the Kabul airport that left 13 U.S. service members and about 170 Afghans dead, according to the father of a Marine killed in the attack who was briefed Tuesday by military officials.

Over the weekend, the U.S. military began to inform families of the 11 Marines, one sailor and one soldier killed in the blast at Abbey Gate during the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. And those family members shared the information in a private group messaging chat, according to the mother of another Marine.

The account from the families to the Associated Press was confirmed by three U.S. officials and a senior congressional aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details that had not yet been made public.

The Islamic State leader, whose identity has not yet been released, was killed in southern Afghanistan in early April as the Taliban conducted a series of operations against the group, according to one of the officials. The Taliban at the time was not aware of the identity of the person killed, the official added.

Darin Hoover, the father of Staff Sgt. Darin Taylor Hoover, said the Marines provided only limited information to him Tuesday and did not identify the Islamic State leader or give the circumstances of his death.

Hoover is among a group of 12 Gold Star families that have kept in touch since the bombing, supporting one another and sharing information through the messaging chat. The chat was created by Cheryl Rex, the mother of Marine Lance Cpl. Dylan Merola, who died in the blast.

Rex, who has been a vocal critic of the Biden administration's handling of the withdrawal, told the AP that it was through the chat group that they were informed late Monday about the killing as they awaited confirmation from U.S. military officials.

Hoover said he and his son's mother, Kelly Henson, have spent the last year and a half grieving the death of the 31-year-old Marine Corps staff sergeant and praying for accountability from the Biden administration for the handling of the withdrawal.

The killing of the unidentified Islamic State group member, Hoover said, does nothing to help them.

"Whatever happens, it's not going to bring Taylor back and I understand that," he said in a phone call. "About the only thing his mom and I can do now is be an advocate for him. All we want is the truth. And we're not getting it. That's the frustrating part."

His son and the other fallen service members were among those screening the thousands of Afghans frantically trying on Aug. 26, 2021, to get onto one of the crowded flights out of the country after the Taliban takeover. The scene of desperation quickly turned into one of horror when a suicide bomber struck. Islamic State claimed responsibility.

The blast at Abbey Gate came hours after Western officials warned of a major attack, urging people to leave the airport. But that advice went largely unheeded by Afghans desperate to escape the country in the last few days of an American-led evacuation before the U.S. officially ended its 20-year presence.

The Afghanistan-based offshoot of Islamic State, with up to 4,000 members, is the Taliban's most bitter enemy and top military threat. Islamic State fighters have continued to carry out attacks in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover, especially against the country's minority groups.

After the Trump administration reached a 2020 deal with the Taliban to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan and the Biden administration followed through on that agreement in 2021, there had been hope in Washington that the Taliban's desire for international recognition and assistance for the country's impoverished population might moderate the group's behavior.

But relations between the U.S. and the Taliban have deteriorated significantly since the group imposed draconian new measures banning girls from school and excluding women from working for international aid and health agencies.

However, a line of communication still exists between the two sides, led by the U.S. special envoy for Afghanistan, Tom West. West's contacts are primarily with Taliban officials in Kabul and not with the group's more ideological wing based in Kandahar.

The August 2021 pullout of U.S. troops led to the swift collapse of the Afghan government and military, which the U.S. had supported for nearly two decades, and the return to power of the Taliban.

In the aftermath, President Biden directed that a broad review examine "every aspect of this from top to bottom," and it was released this month.

The Biden administration in the publicly released version of the review largely laid blame on President Trump for the deadly and chaotic 2021 withdrawal, which was punctuated by the suicide bombing at Abbey Gate.

News of the killing came on the same day that Biden formally announced he will seek a second term, offering a reminder of one of the most difficult chapters of his presidency. The disastrous drawdown was, at the time, the biggest crisis that the relatively new administration had faced.

Amiri, Lee and Madhani write for the Associated Press.

Mexico immigration chief can keep his job despite deadly blaze

Judge denies bid by prosecutors. Official is charged with not protecting migrants.

Associated Press

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico — The head of Mexico's immigration agency was arraigned Tuesday on charges that he failed to protect those in his custody when 40 migrants died in a fire at a border detention center last month.

Federal prosecutors said there are videos showing that private security guards had asked immigration agents permission to release the migrants when the fire started but were denied.

Prosecutors presented evidence that Francisco Garduño, head of the National Immigration Institute, was responsible for the safety of the country's immigration facilities and should have closed those that did not meet safety requirements.

A judge denied prosecutors' request that Garduño be removed from his position and be barred from leaving the country. His next hearing was scheduled for Sunday.

A migrant allegedly started a fire inside the detention center in Ciudad Juarez on March 27. Security cameras showed smoke quickly filling the cell holding 68 male migrants, but no one with keys attempting to release them. The feeds for those cameras were streamed to a monitoring center in Mexico City.

In addition to the 40 killed, more than two dozen were injured in the fire.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has voiced support for Garduño, whom he appointed to run the agency in 2019 while under pressure from then-U.S. President Trump to take a more aggressive stance against migrants crossing Mexico.

Garduño had been in charge of Mexico's prisons.

Prosecutors spoke of nefarious dealings inside the facility; some migrants in their statements said they had been told they would be freed if they paid $1,000.

The highest-ranking official headed to trial is the immigration agency's delegate in Chihuahua state, retired naval Rear Adm. Salvador González, charged with homicide and causing injury by omission, among other counts.

Prosecutors previously said they identified "a pattern of irresponsibility and repeated omissions" in the immigration institute.

The turmoil in Mexico's immigration agency comes as several thousand migrants are walking north from near the Guatemalan border in protest of the deadly fire and calling for Mexico to close its detention centers.

Seven of the migrants and activists accompanying them Tuesday sewed their lips shut in protest over the lack of a government response to their request for dialogue.

The migrants walked to the town of Huixtla, some 25 miles from Tapachula, where they started their walk Sunday. They are asking authorities to provide them with buses or at least with temporary documents that would give them free transit through the country.

Irineo Mujica of the migrant advocacy group People Without Borders was one of those who sewed his mouth shut.

"It hurts a little, but the injustice toward the immigrant community hurts more," he said.

BRITTAINY NEWMAN Associated Press

E. JEAN CARROLL, center, arrives at federal court in Manhattan on Tuesday on the first day of the trial in her lawsuit against former President Trump. He is not required to be in court and probably will not testify.

Trump goes on trial in rape suit

E. Jean Carroll can't stay silent anymore after 27 years, her lawyer says. Defense questions her motive.

By Larry Neumeister and Jennifer Peltz

NEW YORK — A former advice columnist's nearly 30-year-old rape claim against Donald Trump went to trial Tuesday as jurors in the federal civil case heard her allegation of being attacked in a luxury department store dressing room. The former president says nothing happened between them.

E. Jean Carroll will testify that what unfolded in a few minutes in a fitting room in 1996 "would change her life forever," one of her lawyers, Shawn Crowley, said in an opening statement.

"Filled with fear and shame, she kept silent for decades. Eventually, though, silence became impossible," Crowley said.

And when Carroll broke that silence in a 2019 memoir, the then-president "used the most powerful platform on Earth to lie about what he had done, attack Ms. Carroll's integrity and insult her appearance."

Trump lawyer Joe Tacopina painted her story as wildly implausible and short of evidence, and described it as "an affront to justice." He accused her of pursuing the case for money, status and political reasons.

"It all comes down to: Do you believe the unbelievable?" Tacopina told the jury of six men and three women. He urged the panel in heavily Democratic New York to put politics aside in weighing the case against the Republican ex-president and ex-New Yorker.

"You can hate Donald Trump. That's OK. But there's a time and a secret place for that. It's called a ballot box in an election. It's not here in a court of law," Tacopina said. "Nobody's above the law, but no one is beneath it."

The trial stands to test Trump's "Teflon Don" reputation for shaking off serious legal problems and to reprise accounts of the type of sexual misconduct that rocked his 2016 presidential campaign as he seeks office again. He denies Carroll's claim and all the others, saying they were falsehoods spun up to damage him.

The trial is in civil court, meaning that no matter the outcome, Trump isn't in danger of going to jail. He isn't required to be in court, either, and his lawyers have indicated he probably won't testify.

The trial comes a month after he pleaded not guilty in an unrelated criminal case surrounding payments made to bury accounts of alleged extramarital sex.

Jurors — whose names are being kept secret to prevent potential harassment — range in age from 26 to 66 and include a janitor, a physical therapist and people who work in security, health-care collections, a library, a high school and other settings. One said she follows news by watching "everything"; another said he didn't follow it at all.

They were questioned about their news-watching habits, political donations and support for any of a roster of right- and left-wing groups. They were asked too whether they used Trump's social media platform and read Carroll's former Elle magazine column and even if they'd seen Trump's former reality show "The Apprentice" — and whether any of these and other matters would make it difficult for them to be fair.

Carroll is expected to testify about a chance encounter with Trump that turned violent and say he defamed her when responding to the rape allegations. She's seeking unspecified damages and a retraction.

She says that after she ran into the future president at Manhattan's Bergdorf Goodman on an unspecified spring Thursday evening in 1996, he invited her to shop with him for a woman's lingerie gift before they teased each other to try on a garment. Carroll says they ended up alone together in a store dressing room, where Trump pushed her against a wall and raped her before she fought him off and fled.

Since Carroll first made her accusations, Trump has vehemently denied that a rape ever occurred or that he even knew Carroll.

Trump has labeled Carroll a "nut job" and "mentally sick." He said she fabricated the rape claim to boost sales of her book.

"She's not my type," he has said repeatedly, although during sworn questioning in October, he also misidentified her in a photograph as his ex-wife Marla Maples.

Carroll didn't stop to speak with reporters as she arrived at the courthouse Tuesday morning.

Jurors are also expected to hear from two other women who say they were sexually assaulted by Trump.

Jessica Leeds is set to testify that Trump tried to put his hand up her skirt on a 1979 flight on which the two were assigned neighboring seats. Natasha Stoynoff, a former People magazine staff writer, will testify that Trump pinned her against a wall and forcibly kissed her at his Florida mansion when she went there in 2005 to interview Trump and his then-pregnant wife, Melania.

Jurors will also see the infamous 2005 "Access Hollywood" video in which Trump is heard making misogynistic remarks about women, including an assertion that celebrities can grab, even sexually, women without asking.

Carroll's allegations normally would be too old to bring to court. But in November, New York state enacted a law allowing for suits over decades-old sexual abuse claims.

U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan, who will preside over the trial, rejected a request by Trump's lawyers that jurors be told that the former president wanted to spare the city the disruption his presence might cause.

Trump could still decide to attend the trial and testify. If he does not, the jury might be shown excerpts from his deposition, which was recorded on video.

The Associated Press typically does not name people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they come forward publicly, as Carroll, Leeds and Stoynoff have done.

Neumeister and Peltz write for the Associated Press.

Blame Trump, lawyer in Jan. 6 case argues

Proud Boys leader has become a scapegoat in the assault on the Capitol, a jury is told.

By Michael Kunzelman

WASHINGTON — A defense attorney argued Tuesday at the close of a landmark trial over the Jan. 6 riot that the Justice Department is making Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio a scapegoat for Donald Trump after the former president's supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol.

Tarrio and four lieutenants are charged with seditious conspiracy for what prosecutors say was a plot to attack the Capitol to stop the transfer of presidential power from Trump to Joe Biden after the 2020 election.

In his closing argument, defense lawyer Nayib Hassan noted Tarrio wasn't in Washington on Jan. 6, 2021, having been banned from the capital after being arrested on allegations that he defaced a Black Lives Matter banner. Trump, Hassan argued, was the one to blame for exhorting a crowd outside the White House to " fight like hell."

"It was Donald Trump's words. It was his motivation. It was his anger that caused what occurred on Jan. 6 in your beautiful and amazing city," Hassan told jurors in Washington federal court. "It was not Enrique Tarrio. They want to use Enrique Tarrio as a scapegoat for Donald J. Trump and those in power."

Seditious conspiracy, a rarely used charge that can be difficult to prove, carries a possible prison term of up to 20 years.

Tarrio is one of the top targets of the Justice Department's investigation of the riot, which temporarily halted the certification of Biden's election win.

From the outset of the trial, Tarrio's lawyers have accused prosecutors of using him as a scapegoat because charging Trump or his powerful allies would be too difficult. But his attorney's closing arguments were the most full-throated expression of that defense strategy since the trial started more than three months ago.

Trump has denied inciting any violence on Jan. 6 and has argued that he was permitted by the 1st Amendment to challenge his loss to Biden. The former president is facing several civil lawsuits over the riot and a special counsel named by Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland is also overseeing investigations into efforts by Trump and his allies to overturn the results of the election.

A prosecutor told jurors on Monday during the first day of closing arguments that the Proud Boys were ready for "all-out war" and viewed themselves as foot soldiers fighting for Trump as the Republican spread lies that Democrats stole the election from him.

"These defendants saw themselves as Donald Trump's army, fighting to keep their preferred leader in power no matter what the law or the courts had to say about it," said the prosecutor, Conor Mulroe.

The case went to the jury Tuesday afternoon.

Tarrio, a Miami resident, is on trial with Ethan Nordean, Joseph Biggs, Zachary Rehl and Dominic Pezzola. Nordean, of Auburn, Wash., was a Proud Boys chapter president. Biggs, of Ormond Beach, Fla., was a self-described Proud Boys organizer. Rehl was president of a Proud Boys chapter in Philadelphia. Pezzola was a Proud Boys member from Rochester, N.Y.

Attorneys for Nordean and Rehl gave their closing arguments on Monday.

Tarrio is accused of orchestrating an attack from afar even though he wasn't in Washington that day. Police arrested him two days before the riot on charges that he burned a church's Black Lives Matter banner during an earlier march in the city. A judge ordered Tarrio to leave Washington after his arrest.

Defense attorneys have argued that there is no evidence of a conspiracy or a plan for the Proud Boys to attack the Capitol. Tarrio "had no plan, no objective and no understanding of an objective," his attorney said.

Pezzola testified that he never spoke to any of his codefendants before they sat in the same courtroom after their arrests. Defense attorney Steven Metcalf said Pezzola never knew of any plan for Jan. 6 or joined in any conspiracy with the Proud Boys leaders.

"It's not possible. It's fairy dust. It doesn't exist," Metcalf said.

Mulroe told jurors that a conspiracy can be an unspoken and implicit "mutual understanding, reached with a wink and a nod."

The foundation of the government's case, which started with jury selection in December, is a trove of messages that Proud Boys leaders and members privately exchanged in encrypted chats — and publicly posted on social media — before, during and after the deadly Jan. 6 attack.

Another prosecutor, Nadia Moore, said the Proud Boys did more than just talk about their goal of keeping Trump in office. They marched to the Capitol and helped stop the certification of the electoral college vote, she told jurors.

"These men aren't here because of what they said. They're here because of what they did," Moore said Tuesday.

Norm Pattis, one of Biggs' attorneys, described the Capitol riot as an "aberration" and told jurors that their verdict "means so much more than Jan. 6 itself" because it will ”speak to the future."

"Show the world with this verdict that the rule of law is alive and well in the United States," Pattis said.

The Justice Department has already secured seditious conspiracy convictions against the founder and members of another far-right extremist group, the Oath Keepers. But this is the first major trial involving leaders of the far-right Proud Boys, a neo-fascist group of self-described "Western chauvinists" that remains a force in mainstream Republican circles.

Kunzelman writes for the Associated Press.

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Los Angeles Times
A California Times Publication
Founded Dec. 4, 1881
Vol. CXLII No. 144

LOS ANGELES TIMES (ISSN 0458-3035) is published by the Los Angeles Times, 2300 E. Imperial Highway, El Segundo, CA 90245. Periodicals postage is paid at Los Angeles, CA, and additional cities. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the above address.

Home Delivery Subscription Rates (all rates include applicable CA sales taxes and apply to most areas)

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Printed with soy-based ink on recycled newsprint from wood byproducts.

North Dakota's governor signs bill that bans nearly all abortions

Procedure allowed in medical emergencies and in first 6 weeks in rape and incest cases.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Dakota adopted one of the strictest antiabortion laws in the country on Monday as Republican Gov. Doug Burgum signed legislation banning the procedure throughout pregnancy, with slim exceptions up to six weeks' gestation.

In those early weeks, abortions would be allowed only in cases of rape or incest, or in medical emergencies. After six weeks, rape and incest victims cannot get abortions. Abortions to treat some medical emergencies, such as ectopic pregnancies, are allowed at any stage of pregnancy.

"This bill clarifies and refines existing state law … and reaffirms North Dakota as a pro-life state," Burgum said in a statement.

Last year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling overturning the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide has triggered bans or restrictions on the procedure in multiple states. Many of the laws have been met with legal challenges.

Bans on abortion at all stages of pregnancy are now in place in at least 13 states and on hold in others due to court injunctions.

On the other side, Democratic governors in at least 20 states have launched a network to strengthen abortion access in response to the Supreme Court decision, which eliminated the constitutional right to end a pregnancy and shifted regulatory powers over the procedure to state governments.

The North Dakota law is designed to take effect immediately, but last month the state's Supreme Court ruled that a previous ban was to remain blocked while a lawsuit over its constitutionality proceeds.

Last week, state lawmakers said they intended to pass the latest bill to send a message to the state's high court that the people of North Dakota want to restrict abortion.

Supporters of the measure signed on Monday have said it protects all human life, and opponents contend it will have dire consequences for women and girls.

North Dakota no longer has any abortion clinics. Last summer, the state's only such facility, the Red River Women's Clinic in Fargo, closed and moved operations a short distance across the border to Moorhead, Minn., where abortion remains legal. The clinic's owner is still pursuing a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of North Dakota's previous abortion ban.

It's expected that this new ban will also be the subject of legal challenges.

Republican state Sen. Janne Myrdal sponsored North Dakota's latest legislation.

"North Dakota has always been pro-life and believed in valuing the moms and children both," Myrdal said in an interview. "We're pretty happy and grateful that the governor stands with that value."

Democratic state Rep. Liz Conmy voted against the bill, and said she had hoped Burgum would not sign it.

"I don't think women in North Dakota are going to accept this, and there will be action in the future to get our rights back," Conmy said. "Our Legislature is overwhelmingly pro-pregnancy, but I think women in the state would like to make their own decisions."

FOR THE RECORD

Marathon time: In the April 24 Sports section, the Day in Sports briefing reported that Kelvin Kiptum won the London Marathon in 2 hours 1 minute 2 seconds. Kiptum's time was 2 hours 1 minute 25 seconds.

RBI leader: In the April 24 and 25 Sports sections, the listings of the National League leaders in RBIs omitted Pete Alonso of the New York Mets. Alonso was leading the National League in RBIs with 23.

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Agencies gear for flooding from snowmelt

[**Flooding,** from A1]

ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

A VINEYARD in Corcoran, Calif., remains flooded following storms early this year. Water from snowmelt is expected to trickle into the area for 16 weeks.

ready occurred was the result of dozens of powerful atmospheric rivers at the start of the year that caused more than $40 million worth of damage in Tulare County alone, said county Supervisor Eddie Valero. Included in that calculation were 50 breached canals, 37 destroyed homes and 13 damaged bridges.

Adding to the challenge is an imminent heat wave; temperatures around the San Joaquin Valley are expected to reach nearly 100 degrees by Saturday. The National Weather Service has already issued a flood watch in Yosemite National Park, where the Merced River is expected to overflow due to rapid runoff from melting snow.

Newsom said runoff could trickle into the Tulare Lake Basin for the next 16 weeks. But water in the lake — which sits like a bathtub with essentially nowhere to drain — could stick around for as long as two years.

The state is taking steps to help, including providing shelter assistance for displaced residents and aid for affected farmworkers, as well as supplying millions of sandbags, portable barriers called muscle walls and other flood prevention supplies, Newsom said.

But he and other state officials said much of the response will fall to the four Tulare Basin counties — Kern, Tulare, Kings and Fresno — which are not part of the Department of Water Resources' Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. That plan, which runs from the Sacramento Valley down to Fresno County, tasks the DWR with collecting and analyzing data on hydrology, climate, flood impacts and levees, which can help with planning and response during disasters.

DWR Director Karla Nemeth said Tuesday that the agency does "not have significant information about these four counties and where [their] water moves." The counties' absence from the flood plan is the result of decisions made years ago, when the plan was being drafted, and they shied away from state oversight, she said.

> 'The one way we will be successful is if the state, federal and local governments form a very strong partnership, establish plans and communicate those plans with the public to keep them safe as the snow starts to melt.'
>
> — KARLA NEMETH, Department of Water Resources

"The one way we will be successful is if the state, federal and local governments form a very strong partnership, establish plans and communicate those plans with the public to keep them safe as the snow starts to melt over the course of the next 16 weeks," Nemeth said.

Calls have been mounting for the state to help fortify the Corcoran levee — a critical piece of flood control infrastructure in Kings County — but Nemeth said the agency has not received a specific request from the county. Newsom said he and other state officials would be meeting with representatives from local groups to determine the best path forward.

"There have been a lot of questions about cost, scale, scope of that project — different points of view, different opinions," the governor said. "I can assure you being on the same page with regard to local decision makers is important, but also getting on the same page with legislative leaders and our federal partners as well, in a concurrent manner."

The seeming lack of activity has left some residents frustrated. Jordan Silva, a local farmworker, landowner and custom harvester, said he took a boat onto the flooded basin Tuesday to try to recover some of his equipment from beneath the water.

"We've heard about a bunch of stuff that might come — monies and stuff that might show up here — but no, we haven't gotten any," he said. "I threw my name in the hat to possibly, eventually, get some."

Silva, who said he anticipates a significant economic hit from lost crops this year, noted that the water in some places is as deep as 30 feet. He said it makes him reconsider his future in the state; he has thought about moving to South Dakota, where "it's easier."

"There will be water here for two years at least," Silva said. "It does make a person rethink a little bit."

Calls for assistance are also coming from government officials. On Tuesday, a group of 12 California Assemblymembers called on Newsom to dedicate funds for the development of floodplains, a flat area of land beside a river or stream.

"We are writing to urge you to dedicate $100 million to restore previous and current year funding that was diverted and cut from San Joaquin River floodplain restoration, and we ask that you commit an additional $100 million to provide disaster relief to devastated counties," wrote the Democratic and Republican legislators, many representing districts in the Central Valley.

"Restoring floodplains is a critical and cost-effective flood prevention tool," they wrote."As water levels in rivers rise due to rain and snowmelt, floodplains offer opportunities to divert that water to mitigate flooding. Floodplains allow water to flow outside of a river's main channel and temporarily store it to prevent damage. They also provide space for recreation, habitat for wildlife, and can recharge groundwater to improve water supplies. Floodplains will help protect exposed vulnerable communities."

State and federal officials said there are ongoing efforts to deal with floodwater and prepare for incoming runoff, including more than 50,000 acre-feet of floodwater that has already been diverted into areas where it can seep into the ground and recharge groundwater supplies. DWR has also initiated a program to provide more pumps and siphons for local agencies that have maximized their ability to divert water for recharge, including the Fresno Irrigation District, Nemeth said.

"Flood, as a general matter, is a landscape scale — it is a regional challenge. It just screams regional coordination to make it actually work," she said.

Federal agencies are also responding to the runoff by making strategic releases from the basin's four major dams — at Lake Success, Lake Kaweah, Lake Isabella and Pine Flat — to ensure there is room for incoming snowmelt.

"There's definitely space to take in water in all four of those reservoirs," said Kenneth Wright, a spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers, which owns and operates the dams. "We've been working daily for weeks — months, really — to create and sustain flood control space."

He said the expected heat wave "doesn't come as a big surprise," and everyone at the local and federal levels has been bracing for runoff from higher temperatures.

"We're not veering from our plan — we're doing what we always do, especially at times like these," Wright said. "We're coordinating with our local, county, state and sometimes federal partners ... to coordinate the appropriate and safe releases."

An emergency declaration from Newsom and a presidential disaster declaration from President Biden remain in effect and will continue to enable additional assistance for disaster preparation, response and recovery, officials said.

But while groundwater diversions will make a difference, "we will have, in all likelihood, a degree of a standing lake" in the Tulare Basin for the foreseeable future, Nemeth said. "We are here in the Tulare lake bed because, as we all are acutely aware, all of that snowmelt, without interruption, ends up right here."

The next phase of the state's response will include efforts to evacuate water from the lake bed over time. However, future planning will also depend on hydrology, as forecasts are calling for the emergence of a strong El Niño pattern this winter, she said. The pattern is often associated with increased rainfall in California, though it is not a guarantee.

But even as the water level continues to rise, some Corcoran residents are not concerned. Lup Ramirez, who has lived in the area his entire life, said he has seen worse flooding in the past.

"I'm not scared," said Ramirez, 72, as he rested on his bicycle beneath some shade downtown. He said the Boswell Co. — the cotton-growing giant that remains the town's most influential employer — would ensure that things don't get worse.

"This is Boswell's town, and they've got it pretty well under control," he said. "They have a lot invested here — they're not going to let it go under."

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The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.

Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, defiant returnees, and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodor Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.

This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home.

The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people - the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe - was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of its homelessness by re-establishing in Eretz-Israel the Jewish State, which would open the gates of the homeland wide to every Jew and confer upon the Jewish people the status of a fully privileged member of the community of nations.

Survivors of the Nazi holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz-Israel, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.

In the Second World War, the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom- and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations.

On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel; the General Assembly required the inhabitants of Eretz-Israel to take such steps as were necessary on their part for the implementation of that resolution. This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable.

This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State.

Accordingly we, members of the People's Council, representatives of the Jewish Community of Eretz-Israel and of the Zionist Movement, are here assembled on the day of the termination of the British Mandate over Eretz-Israel and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel.

We declare that, with effect from the moment of the termination of the Mandate being tonight, the eve of Sabbath, the 6th Iyar, 5708 (15th May, 1948), until the establishment of the elected, regular authorities of the State in accordance with the Constitution which shall be adopted by the Elected Constituent Assembly not later than the 1st October, 1948, the People's Council shall act as a Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall be the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called "Israel."

The State of Israel will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The State of Israel is prepared to cooperate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in implementing the resolution of the General Assembly of the 29th November, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union of the whole of Eretz-Israel.

We appeal to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the community of nations.

We appeal - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

We extend our hand to all neighbouring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighbourliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

We appeal to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.

Placing our trust in the Almighty, we affix our signatures to this proclamation at this session of the Provisional Council of State, on the soil of the Homeland, in the city of Tel-Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the 5th day of Iyar, 5708 (14th May, 1948).

Signed: David Ben-Gurion and 36 other founding signatories for the State of Israel.

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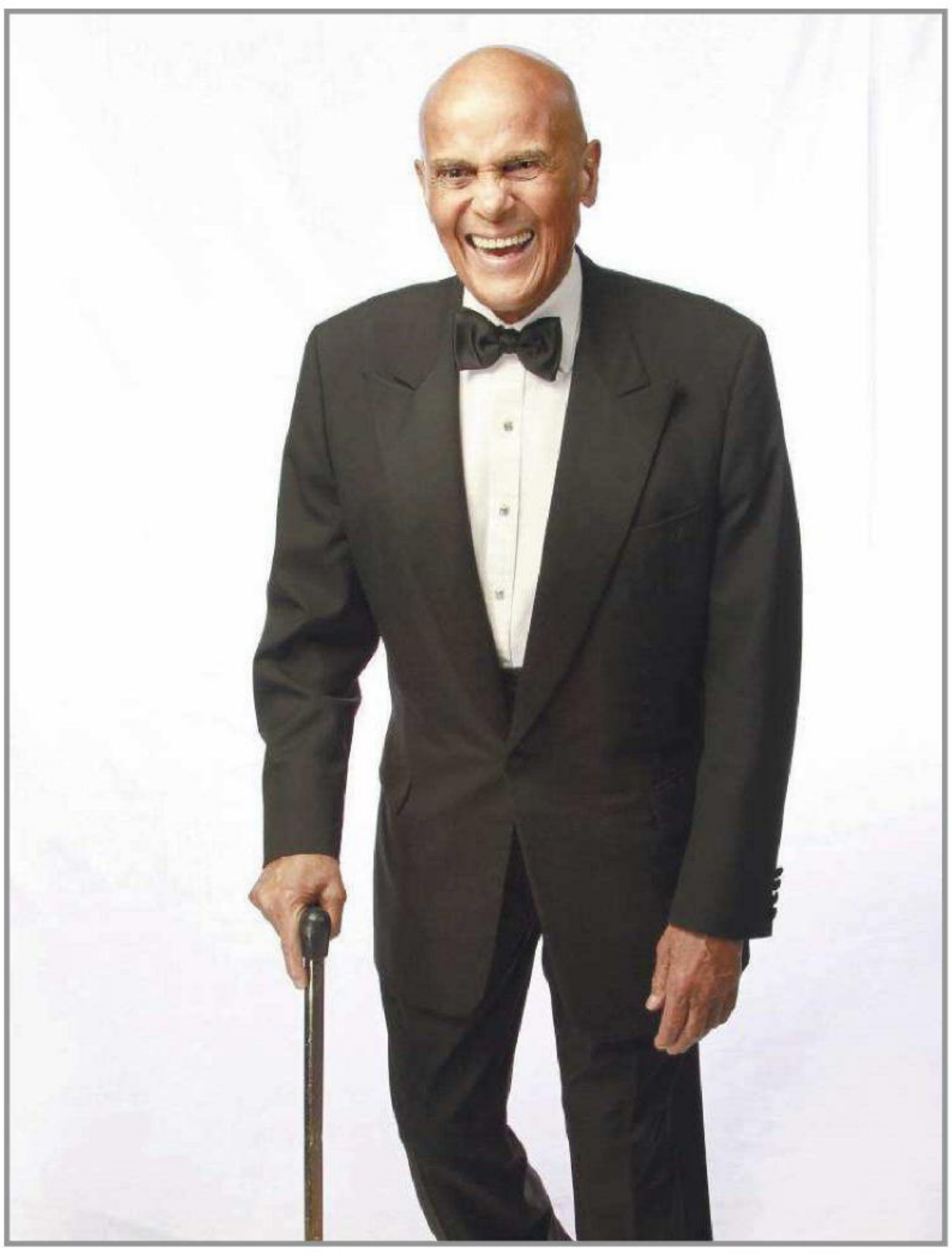
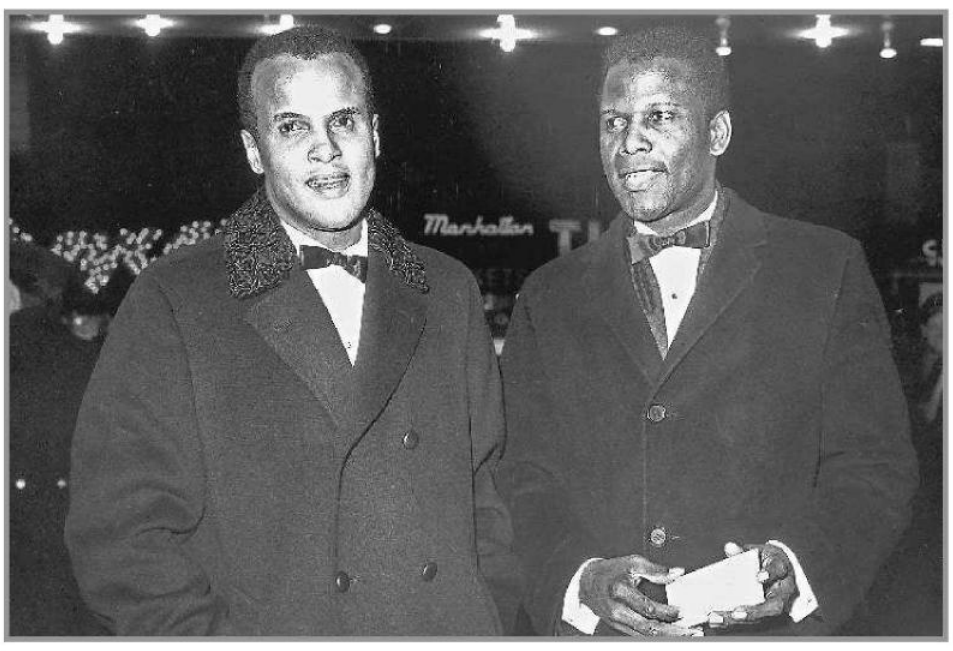
HARRY BELAFONTE, 1927 - 2023

‘Day-O’ singer also fought for civil rights



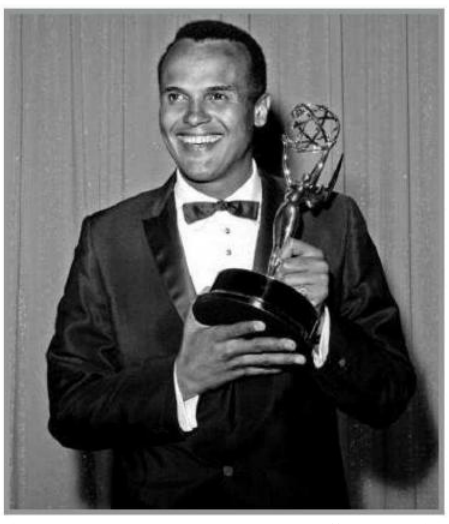
Kirk McKoy Los Angeles Times

COMMITTED HUMANITARIAN
The lifelong activist provided financing for the Freedom Riders as well as helped organize the “We Are the World” fundraiser for famine relief in Africa in 1985.



Hulton Archive Getty Images

SCREEN IDOLS
The “Carmen Jones” star was among a number of popular Black actors, including Sidney Poitier, right, who emerged in the post-World War II era.



Bettmann Archive

TAKING HOME THE PRIZE
The singer won an Emmy in 1960 for his performance in “The Revlon Revue: Tonight With Belafonte.”

Horace Cort Associated Press

COMRADES IN ARMS
Belafonte, with James Foreman, left, called his first meeting with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., center, in 1956 a “life-changing moment.”

Al Lambert Associated Press

SIGNATURE SONG
Belafonte never tired of singing “Day-O.” “I enjoy doing it very much,” he said, “and audiences enjoy it more than I do because they sing along ... with gusto.”

[**Belafonte,** from A1]

Described in Look magazine in 1957 as the first Black matinee idol in entertainment history, the tall, trim and smoothly handsome singer amassed an impressive string of early accolades in an era when Black actors were mostly cast as maids, domestic helpers and laborers.

In 1954, he won a Tony Award for best featured actor in a musical for his performance in the Broadway revue “John Murray Anderson’s Almanac” and six years later won an Emmy for his performance in “The Revlon Revue: Tonight With Belafonte.”

His 1956 album “Calypso,” which included “Jamaica Farewell” and “Day-O,” his version of “The Banana Boat Song,” charted at No. 1 for 31 weeks.

With his signature stage attire of a partially opened tailored cotton shirt and tight black slacks, Belafonte captivated audiences. A 1959 Time magazine cover story called his act “a brilliantly planned and executed combination of artistry and showmanship.”

Belafonte’s emergence as a hugely popular entertainer with both Black and white audiences arrived during a post-World War II era when the civil rights movement was just coming into focus and attitudes were slowly shifting

“As far as Black entertainers were concerned, Belafonte in many ways seemed to be a startling new kind of figure,” said Donald Bogle, a culture critic and author of numerous books on Black Americans in film and television. “There hadn’t been somebody quite like him on the scene.”

Television, which was becoming a potent cultural force in America at the time, helped make Belafonte and his music popular with a vast audience “because people could see him, and his look was very important,” Bogle said.

Through television, “you got a sense of his sex appeal,” Bogle said. “Women loved him and men felt comfortable with Belafonte as well.”

Belafonte was one of a number of popular Black entertainers and actors, including Sammy Davis Jr., Eartha Kitt, Dorothy Dandridge and Sidney Poitier, who emerged at the time.

Belafonte, whom singer and actress Diahann Carroll described to Time as “the most beautiful man I ever set eyes on,” was also visible on the big screen in a handful movies during the 1950s, a time when few Black performers were offered prominent film roles.

After making his movie debut in 1953 as a Southern school principal opposite Dandridge’s teacher in “Bright Road,” Belafonte starred with the actress in the hit 1954 musical “Carmen Jones.”

In 1957, Belafonte broke another color barrier — and stirred controversy — when he became the first Black American actor to play a romantic lead in a feature movie opposite a white leading lady (Joan Fontaine) in the Caribbean-set film “Island in the Sun.”

But, as Bogle observed, “the filmmakers would not allow Belafonte and Fontaine to kiss, nor was their relationship fully explored.”

In 1959, Belafonte starred in two films, “The World, the Flesh and the Devil” and “Odds Against Tomorrow.”

But, Bogle said, “Belafonte in movies was never what he was on television in terms of his impact, in part because of the compromises of the scripts and his own persona. He didn’t have that kind of magnetism on the big screen.”

Belafonte, whose later film credits included “Buck and the Preacher,” “Uptown Saturday Night” and “Kansas City,” established one of the first all-Black music publishing companies in the late ’50s.

It was part of Belafonte Enterprises, whose subsidiaries included a film production company called HarBel Productions. Other business units handled the singer’s concert tours and backed Broadway plays, including Lorraine Hansberry’s acclaimed “A Raisin in the Sun.”

A supporter of Sen. John F. Kennedy’s 1960 presidential campaign, Belafonte sang at Kennedy’s inaugural gala and was named “cultural advisor” to the newly created Peace Corps.

As his fame and fortune grew, the singer-actor devoted increasing amounts of his time and money to supporting the emerging civil rights movement.

Belafonte already was politically active when King called him in 1956 to ask the entertainer to meet with him at a Baptist church in Harlem while he was on a fundraising swing for the group running the bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala.

The two men had a long, private meeting in a Sunday school classroom in the church basement.

“It was a life-changing moment,” Belafonte recalled in a 2007 interview with the Guardian. “From then on, I was in his service and in his world of planning, strategy and thinking. We became very close immediately.”

Belafonte’s friendship with King included holding a “secret” fundraiser in his Manhattan apartment to help raise bail money for King’s Birmingham campaign in 1963, knowing that some of the civil rights leader’s supporters would probably be arrested. Belafonte also rounded up a contingent of stars to appear on stage with King at the Lincoln Memorial during the historic March on Washington a few months later.

Belafonte, who helped launch one of the first voter registration drives in Mississippi and provided financing for the Freedom Riders, also served as a middle man between King and Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Decades later, Belafonte’s social activism took a high-profile twist.

Inspired by Irish singer-songwriter Bob Geldof’s Band Aid charity supergroup, whose single “Do They Know It’s Christmas?” raised money for famine relief in Ethiopia, Belafonte contacted talent manager Ken Kragen and proposed doing a similar project in the United States.

The result was the star-studded “We Are the World” recording that raised millions for famine relief in Africa in 1985.

Belafonte, who was appointed a UNICEF goodwill ambassador in 1987, was a 1989 recipient of a Kennedy Center Honor.

In a toast to Belafonte during the black-tie tribute, then-Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) said the entertainer “has given nobly and unselfishly to the cause of making our country a better place and our planet a better world. Many great artists have a conscience too, but none greater than his.

“He has two qualities that describe the brilliance of his life: courage and excellence.”

Belafonte also was awarded the National Medal of Arts in 1994. And in 2000, the two-time Grammy winner received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Throughout his long career, Belafonte continued to sing “Day-O,” which he once described as having become, “an established part of American folk culture.”

He wouldn’t think of doing a concert without performing it, he told The Times in 2000.

“I enjoy doing it very much,” he said, “and audiences enjoy it more than I do because they sing along with me — and they do it with gusto.”

Explaining the original “Banana Boat Song” in a 1993 interview with the New York Times, he said: “That song is a way of life. It’s a song about my father, my mother, my uncles, the men and women who toil in the banana fields, the cane fields of Jamaica. It’s a classic work song.”

He was born Harold George Bellanfanti Jr. in New York City on March 1, 1927. His mother was a domestic worker; his father, a violence-prone alcoholic at the time, was a cook who most often worked on United Fruit Co. boats between New York and Caribbean and South American ports.

“I was born into poverty, grew up in poverty, and for a long time, poverty was all I thought I’d know,” Belafonte wrote in his 2011 memoir “Harry Belafonte: My Song.”

He made a number of visits to Jamaica when he was young. And in 1936, when he was 9, his mother took him and his 5-year-old brother Dennis to Jamaica to live full time to get away from what he later said were the dangers and temptations of living in Harlem.

When their mother was unable to find a job in Jamaica, she returned to New York and left her two sons behind to attend school. Belafonte’s parents were legally separated by 1940, and his mother brought him and his brother back to New York to live with her.

Belafonte, who later discovered he was dyslexic, dropped out of school midway through the ninth grade and worked a series of odd jobs before enlisting in the Navy shortly after turning 17 in 1944. He was stationed at Port Chicago outside San Francisco, where he loaded military ships bound for the Pacific theater in the final months of World War II.

Returning to Harlem after his discharge in December 1945, he got a job working as a janitor’s assistant in an apartment building.

That January, he hung Venetian blinds for a tenant, an actress, who as a tip gave him two tickets to a play at the American Negro Theatre in Harlem.

The play, about Black servicemen returning home to Harlem, was the first he’d ever seen, and it changed his life.

“That play didn’t just speak to me. It mesmerized me. This was a whole new world — an exhilarating world,” he wrote in his memoir.

He had no intention of becoming an actor at the time, but just to get close to this wonderful new world, he volunteered to be a stagehand at the theater.

He soon was asked to read for a small role in a comedy. That led to a larger role in another play. By July 1946, Belafonte was playing a leading role in the American Negro Theatre’s production of “Juno and the Paycock.”

Belafonte, who became close friends with Poitier, another fledgling young actor at the theater, began attending the Dramatic Workshop of the New School for Social Research on the GI Bill.

A break in landing a role in an off-Broadway production of “Sojourner Truth” in 1948, however, did not immediately lead to more acting jobs for the 21-year-old Belafonte.

Newly married to his first wife, Marguerite, he began working full time pushing clothes racks in the Garment District.

Then an unexpected break came: The manager of the Royal Roost, a top New York City jazz club, who had heard Belafonte sing in a play, offered him a job singing during intermissions.

Before long, Belafonte was packing the club, and he went from making $70 a week to $200 a week.

“It was breathtaking,” Belafonte recalled. “I went from being a nobody who didn’t think he could sing to walking on stage at Carnegie Hall, one night that spring, to accept a plaque from the Pittsburgh Courier, an African American newspaper, as the most promising new singer in the country.”

Twice divorced, Belafonte had four children, Adrienne and Shari with his first wife, and David and Gina with his second wife, Julie. He is also survived by his wife, Pamela Frank, and eight grandchildren.

McLellan is a former Times staff writer.

Biden begins race, warning of extremism

BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI AFP/Getty Images

PRESIDENT BIDEN, at the White House last week, faces investigations, low polling and an uncertain rival.

[**Biden,** from A1]
if he were the nominee. Just 26% of Americans overall in the poll said they wanted to see Biden run again.

But the president and his allies have dismissed such polling, pointing instead to U.S. job growth and his legislative record as evidence of his success during his first two years in office.

The White House frequently promotes the passage of a $1.9-trillion COVID relief bill, bipartisan legislation to overhaul the nation's crumbling infrastructure and boost U.S.-based chip manufacturing, and a $700-billion landmark climate change and drug-pricing law.

Biden previewed his reelection pitch in his morning video, deriding "MAGA extremists" for threatening to strip away abortion protections, voting rights and Social Security. He accused Republicans of "dictating what healthcare decisions women can make, banning books and telling people who they can love."

"Every generation of Americans has faced a moment when they've had to defend democracy. Stand up for our personal freedoms. Stand up for the right to vote and our civil rights," he says as a montage flashes images of his meeting Americans and crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala. "And this is our moment."

Hours later, chants of "four more years" erupted as Biden addressed labor union leaders at a conference in Washington.

He told the crowd that he saw the world through a blue-collar lens, but that Trump, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) and "MAGA extremists" were "cut from a different cloth," and that they threatened to derail progress his administration had made for the working class.

"Let's finish the job! … We're on the cusp of major change," he said.

Biden previously hinted at his reelection message in his State of the Union address in February, in which he contrasted his achievements with a divided Republican Party that had yet to settle on a 2024 strategy or candidate. He called on Congress to work with him to complete the work of revitalizing the U.S. economy and uniting a country fractured by partisan politics.

Although he had not officially launched his campaign, aides and Democratic officials had already quietly begun setting up the campaign infrastructure in battleground states across the country.

Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel criticized Biden as "out of touch" after his announcement Tuesday, and accused the president of "creating crisis after crisis" on inflation, crime and fentanyl trafficking.

As Biden took office amid the COVID-19 pandemic that paralyzed the country for more than a year, he vowed to get the coronavirus under control and repair the economic damage wrought by the global health crisis.

His first year in office was bogged down by economic challenges, including record-high inflation and supply chain bottlenecks exacerbated by the pandemic, which lingered longer than White House officials had anticipated.

The public's mood worsened in August 2021, when waves of new virus variants spread across the country and 13 U.S. troops and scores of Afghans were killed during the military's messy withdrawal from Afghanistan. The president's approval rating sank to the low 40s, where it remains.

But in February 2022, as Biden continued to grapple with problems at home, Russia invaded Ukraine. The president responded by reinvigorating transatlantic cooperation and winning bipartisan support to send tens of billions of dollars in economic and military aid to the embattled country.

The administration celebrated several legislative victories last summer, including the most sweeping gun reform legislation in 30 years, the president's signature climate and drug-pricing law, and a healthcare bill for veterans injured by wartime exposure to toxic substances. He also signed ratification documents in support of Finland's and Sweden's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, highlighting U.S. leadership in expanding NATO's defense alliance.

November's midterm election results gave Biden a tailwind after Democrats outperformed historical trends despite his low approval ratings, defying projections of a "red wave." The party narrowly lost the House and picked up a seat in the Senate. Democrats also won control of four additional state legislative chambers and two governorships, the best first midterm performance for a party since President Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency.

Biden's political fortunes took a turn in January, when the Justice Department appointed a special counsel to examine whether he had mishandled classified documents found at his former office at a think tank in Washington and at his home in Wilmington, Del.

Republicans argued that Biden was treated differently than Trump, who is also under investigation over classified documents taken from his Mar-a-Lago resort during an August raid. The facts of the two cases are different: Biden's lawyers immediately notified the National Archives upon discovery of the documents in his possession; Trump resisted turning over sensitive materials for several months.

Biden's document controversy has fueled GOP-led House inquiries into the president, his administration and his family, but White House aides argue that the special counsel investigation will have little effect on the 2024 election. Former Vice President Mike Pence later announced that classified documents had also been discovered at his Indiana home, which suggests there's a systemic problem with the handling of classified material in Washington.

A majority of Americans surveyed believe both Biden and Trump mishandled classified files, according to an ABC News/Ipsos poll released in January. Seventy-seven percent said Trump had acted inappropriately in the way he handled classified documents, compared with 64% who said the same of Biden.

It's still unclear whom Biden will run against, as the Republican presidential primary is still taking shape. Trump — who is embroiled in a series of investigations and has been charged in connection with an alleged hush-money payment made to a porn actor during the 2016 campaign — is the leading candidate. Nearly 70% of GOP primary voters, even those who had another first choice for the nomination, said they support Trump despite the probes, according to the NBC poll.

Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, conservative talk radio host Larry Elder and former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson are among those who have already entered the GOP race; Pence, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin are also eyeing White House runs.

Minutes after the president's announcement Tuesday, the Biden-Harris campaign released an email announcing election staff, including Julie Chavez Rodriguez, director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and a longtime Democratic Party activist, as campaign manager. Chavez Rodriguez is the granddaughter of labor and civil rights leader Cesar Chavez. Quentin Fulks, who was campaign manager for Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.), was tapped as deputy campaign manager.

Among Biden's campaign co-chairs are Hollywood mega-donor Jeffrey Katzenberg, Reps. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.) and James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.) and Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

The president's springtime decision is in line with most of his recent predecessors' reelection announcements: Former Presidents Obama, George W. Bush and Clinton launched their campaigns between April and June. (Trump filed his reelection paperwork on the day he was inaugurated in 2017, and officially kicked off his campaign in June 2019.) But unlike with Biden, there was never any doubt about whether these incumbents would run.

Biden's announcement comes exactly four years after he declared his candidacy for the 2020 race.

Shell, Carlson and Lemon firings are signs of change

[**McNamara,** from A1]
No suit has been filed against Lemon, but continued complaints about his sexist on-air remarks and behind-the-scenes treatment of his female colleagues apparently made him more of a liability than a star.

Taken together, it was difficult not to think, "Well, it looks like all of those sexual harassment training videos were useless."

But maybe not. Maybe Monday was actually a good day, representing the messy, imperfect, two-steps-forward-one-step-back pattern of actual change.

Yes, Carlson losing his job because of a sexual harassment suit is a bit like Al Capone going to jail for tax evasion. Still, considering that he replaced Bill O'Reilly, who got the ax only after it was revealed that he and Fox News had paid millions in sexual harassment settlements over the years, Carlson's firing indicates something that could be called progress. (Or maybe, after spending almost a billion in the O'Reilly, Roger Ailes and now Dominion scandals, Fox is realizing the literal cost of its toxic culture.)

Yes, Shell is open to charges of hypocrisy (not to mention stupidity) as well as harassment. It was Shell who helped orchestrate and then announced Ron Meyer's 2020 exit from NBCUniversal after it was revealed that an extramarital affair left Meyer vulnerable to extortion attempts. Shell described Meyer as acting "in a manner which we believe is not consistent with our company policies or values."

But at least, with a final mendacious flourish of "inappropriate relationship," he's gone.

Lemon, who in 2021 pushed back against exiting host Brooke Baldwin's complaint that CNN was a boys' club (the entire 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. lineup was anchored by men) by saying, "We have plenty of women in power," may have unintentionally proved how important gender parity is.

Lemon's sexist on-air remarks — about 51-year old Nikki Haley not being a viable presidential candidate because women are in their prime "in the 20s, 30s and maybe 40s" and women's sports receiving less coverage because men are more interesting to watch — were met with full-throttle pushback from his female co-hosts (and viewers). Amid the uproar, past allegations of uncollegial behavior resurfaced as well as many tensions that existed between him and his female colleagues.

First, CNN executives announced that because they took these things "seriously," Lemon would receive "professional training." Then, apparently, they decided that was not enough, and now he's gone too.

It's all about the money, of course — short and long term.

Lawsuits are expensive, sustained outrage can damage ratings, and certain patterns of personality can harm brands, especially, as seems to be the case with Fox News and CNN, those brands that are attempting to recover and/or change.

But it's also about the culture. Having seen the ubiquity of sexism and sexual harassment in various workplaces, and the resulting damage, we can never unsee it, though there is much debate about how to prevent it (all those training videos!) or how to respond to allegations that do not include assault, rape or patterns of predatory behavior.

Indeed, in recent years many have feared that some of the earlier cases, particularly that of Weinstein (who is in prison for multiple convictions of rape and sexual assault), were so horrific that workplace sexism would not be taken seriously if it did not involve physical injury or a sustained pattern of abuse.

The firing of these three men appears to suggest otherwise.

Yes, it would be easy, and natural, to look at these guys and think, "Here we are, back again. Is it ever going to change?" Which is valid if you are looking only at the men, each of whom appear to have believed that the rules — of the workplace and the culture — did not apply to them.

But if you look past the men and at the companies that employed them, at least a small degree of change is visible.

For whatever reason — financial, optics, brand management — the media giants in question parted ways with some of their most powerful players. If not exactly preemptively, then at least relatively swiftly.

There is a chance, of course, that more will be revealed in coming weeks, but the fact that the firing of these men took everyone by surprise offers some hope. (For Shell and Carlson, it does appear that lawsuits were necessary, but at least they were not settled quietly with no or few consequences for the alleged offenders.)

And that's as it should be. It shouldn't take multiple news investigations for companies to listen to employees' allegations and complaints. It shouldn't take a chorus of women offering up the details of some of the worst hours of their lives for other women to feel safe enough to speak up and to believe they will be heard when they do.

Sexism and sexual harassment should not be ignored or treated as perks of stardom, nor should they be papered over with consciousness-raising and workplace training.

There should be consequences for inappropriate conduct, and on Monday at least, there were.

Roberts won't testify on Supreme Court's ethics for Senate panel

By Mary Clare Jalonick and Mark Sherman

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. has declined a request from the Senate Judiciary Committee to testify next week on the U.S. Supreme Court's ethical standards, instead providing the panel with a statement of ethics reaffirmed by the court's nine justices.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) invited Roberts' testimony last week, noting a "steady stream of revelations" regarding justices "falling short of ethical standards expected of other federal judges."

The invitation came after news reports detailed a close relationship between Justice Clarence Thomas and a conservative donor, Dallas billionaire Harlan Crow. Crow had purchased three properties from Thomas and his family in a transaction worth over $100,000 that Thomas did not report, according to the nonprofit investigative journalism organization ProPublica.

In a letter to Durbin on Tuesday, Roberts said he would "respectfully decline" the committee's request, noting: "Testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee by the Chief Justice of the United States is exceedingly rare, as one might expect in light of separation of powers concerns and the importance of preserving judicial independence."

Accompanying his letter to Durbin was a "Statement on Ethics Principles and Practices" signed by all nine justices, describing the ethical rules they follow on travel, gifts and outside income. Although the rules are not new, the statement said the justices "today reaffirm and restate foundational ethics principles and practices to which they subscribe in carrying out their responsibilities as Members of the Supreme Court."

The statement details standards for justices' activities outside the court and describes the process for recusal, which is generally up to each individual justice. It does not require justices to explain why if they recuse themselves from a case.

Nothing about Roberts' letter or the statement attributed to all nine justices suggests that they feel chastened by recent reports. But it is the first time the current membership has spoken on ethics issues as a group.

Durbin said in a statement that he was surprised by the response, which "suggests current law is adequate and ignores the obvious."

"The actions of one Justice, including trips on yachts and private jets, were not reported to the public," he said. "That same Justice failed to disclose the sale of properties he partly owned to a party with interests before the Supreme Court."

Durbin said he would proceed with the hearing, which would "review common sense proposals" to hold justices more accountable to ethics guidelines.

Gabe Roth, executive director of the transparency group Fix the Court, said in a statement that the justices' response rehashed inadequate ethical standards.

"Roberts' statement is nowhere near an appropriate response to the ethical failures of the current Court," he said.

ProPublica also revealed that Crow gifted Thomas and his wife, conservative activist Ginni Thomas, with hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of annual vacations and trips over several decades — including international cruises on his mega-yacht, private jet flights and stays at Crow's invitation-only resort in New York's Adirondacks. But the 2014 real estate deal is the first public record of a direct financial transaction between Crow and Justice Thomas.

Ethics experts have offered conflicting views on whether Thomas was required to disclose the luxury trips funded by Crow.

Thomas said in a statement that he was advised by colleagues that "this sort of personal hospitality from close personal friends, who did not have business before the Court, was not reportable."

He did not name those in the judiciary with whom he had consulted.

Last month, the federal judiciary bolstered disclosure requirements for all judges, including Supreme Court justices — but overnight stays at personal vacation homes owned by their friends remain exempt from disclosure.

The ethics statement Thomas sent to Durbin notes that the Judicial Conference's Committee on Financial Disclosure had "provided clarification on the scope of the 'personal hospitality' exemption to the disclosure rules."

Durbin's letter had asked that Roberts or another justice appear before the committee on May 2. He told Roberts that the scope of the testimony would be limited to the ethics rules governing justices of the Supreme Court and potential changes to those rules.

Roberts' refusal to testify is the latest hitch for Democrats on the Judiciary Committee. With Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California absent indefinitely, the committee has an equal number of Democrats and Republicans, preventing it from moving certain judges to the Senate floor for confirmation votes — and presumably from subpoenaing Roberts.

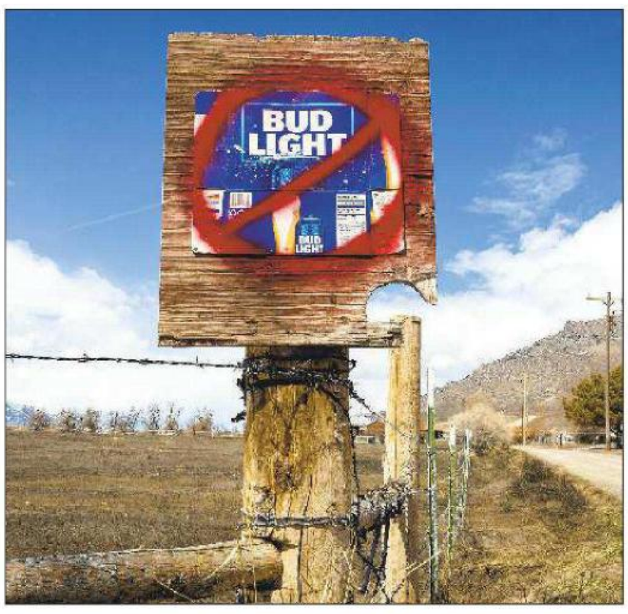
In declining to testify, Roberts also ignored Durbin's invitation to have another justice appear instead. The last time justices met with the Senate Judiciary Committee was in October 2011, when then-Justices Antonin Scalia and Stephen G. Breyer testified.

Jalonick and Sherman write for the Associated Press. AP writer Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

Bud Light faces anti-trans fallout over influencer

Anheuser-Busch InBev puts two marketing execs on leave amid backlash from conservatives.

By Alexandra E. Petri



Natalie Behring Getty Images

A SIGN posted along a country road last week in Arco, Idaho, expresses disapproval of the beer brand.

On Friday, Anheuser-Busch InBev, the parent company of Bud Light, placed two of its marketing executives on leave after public outcry from conservative corners over the beer brand's partnership with a transgender influencer.

The move follows weeks of controversy, including a video of Kid Rock shooting cases of Bud Light and calls for a boycott backed by conservative figures including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. Here's what you should know.

Who is Dylan Mulvaney?

Dylan Mulvaney is a transgender influencer and actor who has been using her social platforms over the last year to share her gender-transition journey in a TikTok series called "Days of Girlhood." Mulvaney, 26, grew up in San Diego and studied musical theater in college. She landed a role in the Broadway musical "The Book of Mormon" before the pandemic halted the tour.

When did this all start?

On April 1, Mulvaney posted a video on her Instagram account, which has about 1.8 million followers, to promote a Bud Light contest during the NCAA basketball tournament. In the video, she sets five Bud Light cans down on a table and opens one as she talks about the tournament, adding that she's also celebrating an important milestone in her journey — Day 365 of womanhood. "Bud Light sent me possibly the best gift ever: A can with my face on it," she says as an image of the personalized can appears in the video.

What happened after that?

The collaboration set off a backlash among conservatives against Mulvaney, the brand and some of its executives. The hashtag #BoycottBudLight took off online, and consumers shared videos of themselves pouring out Bud Light bottles or throwing away six-packs. Kid Rock posted a video of himself shooting up a stack of Bud Light cases. Country music star Travis Tritt said on Twitter that he would no longer use Anheuser-Busch products in his tour hospitality rider. Some Republican officials including DeSantis said they no longer supported the brand and backed consumers in doing the same.

On April 4, the company defended its partnership with Mulvaney, writing that it "works with hundreds of influencers across our brands as one of many ways to authentically connect with audiences across various demographics."

"From time to time we produce unique commemorative cans for fans and for brand influencers, like Dylan Mulvaney," Anheuser-Busch said in the statement. "This commemorative can was a gift to celebrate a personal milestone and is not for sale to the general public."

About 10 days later, as the turmoil continued, Chief Executive Brendan Whitworth issued a public statement. "We never intended to be part of a discussion that divides people," Whitworth said. "We are in the business of bringing people together over a beer."

Even as the brand has come under right-wing attacks, others have criticized the company's response to the storm.

What has the controversy meant for Bud Light?

It has resulted in a reorganization of the brand's marketing operations, with two executives involved being sidelined from their jobs, at least temporarily. The Wall Street Journal reported Sunday that Alissa Heinerscheid, Bud Light's vice president of marketing who oversaw the partnership, and her boss Daniel Blake, who oversees marketing for Anheuser-Busch's mainstream brands, were placed on leave. An Anheuser-Busch spokesperson confirmed those moves to The Times, declining to provide additional details "in the interest of our employees' privacy and safety." Heinerscheid is the first woman to lead marketing for Bud Light in the brand's 41-year history.

The spokesperson said Bud Light had also made "some adjustments to streamline the structure of our marketing function to reduce layers so that our most senior marketers are more closely connected to every aspect of our brands activities."

According to Bump Williams Consulting figures cited by Beer Marketer's Insights, sales volume for Bud Light tumbled 21% in the week that ended April 15.

What do social issues have to do with Bud Light?

For years, Anheuser-Busch has been trying to evolve, with executives saying that Bud Light needed to appeal to younger consumers in order to stay on the shelves.

Heinerscheid described Bud Light as a brand in need of a revival in a March interview on the "Make Yourself at Home" podcast.

"I had a really clear job to do when I took over Bud Light," said Heinerscheid, who stepped into the role in 2022. "It was, this brand is in decline, it's been in decline for a really long time, and if we do not attract young drinkers to come and drink this brand, there will be no future for Bud Light."

That meant the brand, which had a reputation for being "fratty," needed to become "truly inclusive" and appeal to both men and women, she said.

The partnership with Mulvaney is not the first time Bud Light has waded into social issues in its marketing campaigns. It previously partnered with LGBTQ+ organizations such as GLAAD in 2019 to celebrate Pride Month in the U.S. and the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce in 2022 to support LGBTQ+-owned businesses amid post-pandemic reopenings.

But the backlash against its collaboration with Mulvaney has been swift, and the response comes as red states across the country are restricting transgender healthcare and rights. The Associated Press reported that more than 450 bills have been introduced in statehouses around the country this year targeting transgender people, which LGBTQ+ advocates say is a record number.

Venture capital firms commit to zero emissions

Group of 23 vows to encourage investors and companies to cut and end pollution.

By Eric Roston

Rob Nikolewski San Diego Union-Tribune

THE VENTURE Climate Alliance plans to develop a methodology to reach net-zero emissions and best practices to encourage portfolio companies to do so too.

When consumer goods companies, financial institutions, cities and more rolled out bold promises to curtail carbon emissions a few years ago, one sector was conspicuously silent: venture capital firms.

Now, though, they're showing up to the net-zero party — having spent the last two years thinking about it. A group of 23 firms announced on Tuesday the Venture Climate Alliance, an initiative to encourage early-stage investors to stop greenhouse-gas pollution and help the companies they fund do the same.

Member firms pledge to cut or net-zero out their own greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 or earlier, a time frame that is crucial to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). Their portfolio companies should aim to be net zero by 2050. The VCA includes general investors, such as Union Square Ventures, Tiger Global and DCVC, and firms dedicated exclusively to climate tech, including Clean Energy Ventures and Galvanize Climate Solutions.

So far, venture capital firms have taken a largely ad hoc approach to net-zero targets. Some firms are already confronting climate change head on while others are doing relatively little to track their emissions or invest heavily in climate tech.

"Venture in some ways got a pass, because either you're already doing the work or you argue that you're immaterial," said Alexandra Harbour, principal at Prelude Ventures and founder and chair of the VCA. "What we saw was basically varying degrees of intensity and work, but all happening in a black box. There are some simple steps that we can take together as an industry."

The VCA is striking a collaborative tone, eschewing requirements for either potential future members or portfolio companies at this stage. "It's really important for us that we're not telling venture investors to change their investment thesis," she said.

Putting together a band of interested firms is only the first step. Next, the investors plan to develop a methodology to reduce their emissions and reach net zero and best practices to encourage their portfolio companies to do the same. VCA members have been consulting with Project Frame, an initiative of the nonprofit Prime Coalition, to develop a structured way for venture capitalists to think about and quantify their emissions — and determine how to reduce them over time. That includes the role that carbon offsets — which have a spotty record — will play in ensuring their portfolios reach net zero.

The team wanted to take on a sectorwide approach to prevent a situation in which a climate framework developed for other industries creeps into their industry. Venture capital firms and their portfolio companies are small compared with the large institutions that stepped forward in the first wave of net-zero commitments beginning in 2020. They may not have the resources to factor climate change into their decision-making as easily as large financial institutions, such as those that started the closely followed Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero in 2021. The VCA joins several other GFANZ subgroups as a "sector-specific alliance."

"GFANZ spent a very long time creating a methodology to track emissions, and no such agreed upon net-zero alignment methodologies currently exist for venture capital," said Jason Pontin, a partner at DCVC.

Harbour said she could not think of an analogue to VCA, in which firms banded together to set out an industrywide methodology to take into the deep future. (A broader National Venture Capital Assn. was founded in the early 1970s.)

The next several years will only bring more pressure for startups to build climate considerations into their missions, even if the venture capitalists investing in them don't expect the companies to decarbonize for some time. DCVC, a VCA founding member that counts climate tech as one of its main focus areas, will give its companies "a fairly long runway" for cutting carbon, and one that will offer hard decisions and trade-offs between growth and climate concerns along the way.

"Will there be tensions? I'm sure. That's the challenge that every economic actor on the planet must solve," Pontin said. "But decarbonization is happening remarkably rapidly, much faster than I would have anticipated."

Climate tech has seen a dizzying rise in investments in recent years and has only begun to struggle against the headwinds other sectors have felt for many months.

High oil prices and rising interest rates make it an increasingly difficult environment for young companies and their backers, even in the previously red-hot climate tech space. Any economic storm will pass, though, and firms will still need to put in the work to decarbonize their operations and portfolios. Making a net-zero pledge is easy, said Daniel Firger, a co-founder, lead advisor and managing director at Great Circle Capital Advisors. "Net-zero performance is harder," he added.

Roston writes for Bloomberg.

Tesla Model Y now costs less than average U.S. vehicle

The price of the top-selling EV has dropped 24% since January, sparking talk of a discounting war.

By Tom Randall

Tesla Inc. is now charging less for the cheapest version of the Model Y sport utility vehicle than what the typical new vehicle sells for in the U.S., a threshold Elon Musk crossed in blazing fashion.

At $46,990, the base Model Y now costs $759 less than the average amount paid for a car or truck in the U.S. The differential between these figures has changed by more than $20,000 since the middle of last year.

Since January, Tesla has lowered the Model Y starting price by 24%, the biggest drop of any of its vehicles. No carmaker has made such a dramatic reduction to a high-volume vehicle in the modern age of the automobile. The Model Y was the bestselling EV in the U.S. last year and one of the top SUVs of any type.

Although Musk has denied that Tesla is starting a price war, his peers see it differently. Ford Motor Co. Chief Executive Jim Farley, whose Mustang Mach-E SUV lost considerable share to the Model Y last quarter — despite some discounting — said last week that price battles are "breaking out everywhere."

Indeed, Tesla has been slashing prices beyond America's borders. French carmaker Renault last week called Tesla's cuts a challenge and said it was examining its pricing strategy in response. In China, automakers have followed Tesla with steep discounts, and at least one analyst has warned that some companies might not survive.

Morgan Stanley analyst Adam Jonas said last week that Musk's U.S. cuts may lead some automakers to slow down their breakneck pace of investment in electric vehicles, rather than compete with Tesla on price in an uncertain economy.

"We are questioning whether this is the 'moment' where the boards of the legacy OEMs [original equipment manufacturers] can reconsider dialing back the magnitude and timing of their EV capex [capital expeditures] and R&D plans," Jonas said.

Tesla's Model Y became one of the three bestselling SUVs in the U.S. last year. That was remarkable considering the starting price of the Model Y was more than double that of the Toyota RAV4 and Honda CR-V, the market's perennial favorites.

Now, that cost barrier has been reduced to a speed bump, plus the Model Y is eligible for $7,500 federal tax credits for the first time.

Randall writes for Bloomberg.

End of road for Bolt as GM retools for pickups

By David Welch

General Motors will end the seven-year run of the Chevrolet Bolt compact electric vehicle and its Bolt electric utility vehicle stablemate as the company converts a plant in Orion, Mich., to produce large electric trucks.

GM will make the move by year's end as the automaker reconfigures its sole Bolt plant to begin building battery-powered versions of its Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra full-size pickups. The factory will be a key part of the company's strategy to sell 1 million EVs in 2025, but will also end production of one of the cheapest battery-powered models on the market.

GM Chief Executive Mary Barra made the sudden announcement Tuesday on the company's first-quarter earnings call with analysts.

"We've progressed so far that it's now time to plan the end of Chevrolet Bolt EV and EUV production, which will happen at the end of the year," she said.

GM's decision to end Bolt production, which had been the subject of speculation for more than a year, ends a period when the company made small EVs largely to meet regulatory requirements and ushers in an era of converting all models to electric drive.

The Bolt gave GM a foothold in the EV market with its initial entry into battery cell production with partner LG, even as the carmaker worked on the next-generation Ultium battery, which powers its latest EV models. The standard Bolt and EUV will account for about 80,000 of the 150,000 EVs the company expects to build this year.

Barra has said Bolt owners are very loyal to GM, though some were turned off when the car was plagued by a rare defect that led to battery fires.

Chevy cut prices on the Bolt by $6,000 last year. Its starting price of $26,500 before tax credits makes it one of the cheapest vehicles of any kind for sale in the U.S. Later this year, GM will begin producing the Chevy Equinox small SUV. Eventually, the company plans to introduce an EV version of that model starting at around $30,000.

Welch writes for Bloomberg.

Where does Fox News go after firing Carlson?

[**Fox News,** from A1]

"It's worked in the past because they are not selling a personality, they are selling a mindset and selling a view of the world," said Jon Klein, a tech entrepreneur who ran CNN from 2004 to 2010. "It's the power of the Fox News brand."

Carlson's rise is a prime example of the formula's reliability. A veteran print journalist, he was a two-time loser in cable news, having been fired from CNN and MSNBC, leading to skepticism that he was the best choice to replace O'Reilly after he was ousted over sexual harassment allegations in 2017.

But Carlson tapped into the mindset of Trump-loving viewers while being compelling enough to draw in some liberal hate-watchers as well. That made him an even bigger hit.

"Tucker Carlson Tonight" retained most of O'Reilly's audience levels and improved the Nielsen ratings performance in the 8 p.m. Eastern time period among the key 25-to-54 age group that advertisers covet.

Previously, Fox News held strong after the network fired conservative firebrand Beck, whose conspiracy theories and on-air claim that former President Obama hated white people lost him advertisers on his 5 p.m. show.

To fill Beck's void, Fox News came up with "The Five," the opinionated roundtable show that is now the most-watched program in cable news, surpassing "Tucker Carlson Tonight" by drawing more than 3 million viewers daily.

"The Five" has become a Fox News talent incubator for other programs, demonstrating the company's strategy of allowing its audience to become familiar with new faces before elevating them to larger roles.

Erik McGregor LightRocket

A PROTESTER wears a Tucker Carlson-on-TV mask in Manhattan in April 2022. Fox News is likely to take a ratings hit without Carlson but could be better off financially in the long run even with a smaller audience.

> 'It's worked in the past because they are not selling a personality, they are selling a mindset and selling a view of the world.'
>
> — Jon Klein, former head of CNN, on Fox News replacing fired hosts

Jesse Watters, who started out as a mischievous ambush interviewer for O'Reilly, gained enough of a following on "The Five" to earn his own show at 7 p.m. Eastern, which improved ratings in the hour by 50%. Greg Gutfeld, the comic relief on "The Five," was given his own late-night program, which now tops broadcast network stalwarts such as "The Tonight Show With Jimmy Fallon" and "Jimmy Kimmel Live."

Fox News Media Chief Executive Suzanne Scott has been criticized for her handling of the network's reporting on alleged voter fraud in the 2020 election (the company paid Dominion Voting Systems $787.5 million to settle a defamation suit over false statements made by the network). But she has shown a knack for identifying personalities that connect with Fox News viewers.

"She is keenly aware of who her audience is," said one talent agent who does business with the network and spoke on the condition of anonymity. "She knows how to cast. She programs for her audience and not for the conference room."

Still, Fox News is likely to take a ratings hit without Carlson. Kilmeade's first night in the time slot was down nearly 600,000 viewers from Carlson's average of 3.2 million viewers. Other Fox News personalities expected to get a shot in Carlson's chair include daytime host Harris Faulkner and "Fox & Friends" weekend co-host Will Cain.

But the network could be better off financially in the long run even with a slightly smaller audience.

Although Carlson was a ratings hit, major advertisers stayed away from his program after his 2018 comments that Democratic immigration policy was changing "the demographics of the country," which critics described as an endorsement of racist "replacement theory."

A new host will probably make less than the $15-million to $20-million salary Carlson pulled in a year. Plus, a less incendiary personality could attract big brand-name advertisers that had stayed away from the program, driving up the price of commercials.

What might change the equation is if Carlson shows up on a competing network. After the news of his firing broke Monday, conservative competitor Newsmax put out a statement that sounded like an invitation to the now show-less host.

"For a while Fox News has been moving to become establishment media and Tucker Carlson's removal is a big milestone in that effort," Newsmax CEO Christopher Ruddy said in the statement. "Millions of viewers who liked the old Fox News have made the switch to Newsmax, and Tucker's departure will only fuel that trend."

Although Newsmax would love to land Carlson, he probably has a noncompete clause that allows him to leave the network with what was owed to him on his contract. That might keep him off a competitor's airwaves through 2024.

Carlson also could pivot to a direct-to-consumer strategy. An online newsletter, podcast or streaming brand would offer the pundit a cheap and easy way to engage his fans without having to go through another cable network.

"The real money would be in creating a D2C podcast/media property that you could sell to someone like Spotify," said Maribel Lopez, founder of the tech research and consulting firm Lopez Research.

Controversial podcaster Joe Rogan's own deal with the Swedish audio giant, estimated to be worth some $100 million, is a case in point, she said.

"I can't imagine Tucker Carlson not putting out content," said Ray Wang, founder of the tech advisory firm Constellation Research. "Direct-to-consumer is probably one way to do it."

But it's not a perfect solution.

"Six out of every seven of his viewers are over the age of 55," said Eric Nuzum, co-founder of the podcast consulting and production agency Magnificent Noise. "A lot of the self-distributed platforms, be it newsletters or podcasts or YouTube or all these other things — you're not seeing older audience members there, or the number of them are smaller and they're less comfortable."

Times staff writer Brian Contreras contributed to this report.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Stocks decline, led by First Republic

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	33,530.83	-344.57	-1.02	+1.16
S&P 500	4,071.63	-65.41	-1.58	+6.05
Nasdaq composite	11,799.16	-238.05	-1.98	+12.73
S&P 400	2,451.31	-48.14	-1.93	+0.86
Russell 2000	1,745.95	-42.92	-2.40	-0.87
EuroStoxx 50	4,377.85	-22.08	-0.50	+15.44
Nikkei (Japan)	28,620.07	+26.55	+0.09	+9.68
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	19,617.88	-342.06	-1.71	-0.83

Associated Press

Wall Street tumbled Tuesday to its worst day in a month on worries about the strength of corporate profits and the economy after some mixed reports.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 1.6%, breaking out of a weeks-long lull. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 1%, while the Nasdaq composite sank 2%.

First Republic Bank had the biggest loss in the S&P 500 by far, and its stock nearly halved after it said customers withdrew more than $100 billion in deposits in the first three months of the year. That doesn't include $30 billion in deposits that big banks plugged in to build faith in their rival after the second- and third-largest U.S. bank failures in history shook confidence.

The size of the drop in deposits renewed worries about the U.S. banking system and the risk of an economy-sapping pullback in lending. That overshadowed First Republic's beating analysts' expectations for earnings at the start of the year, and its stock plunged 49.4%.

With so much uncertainty about whether inflation can return to the Federal Reserve's target without causing a recession, "we remain skeptical that markets are out of the woods," Barclays strategists led by Stefano Pascale said in a report.

A report Tuesday showed that confidence among consumers fell more sharply in April than expected, down to its lowest level since July.

A separate report said sales of new homes rose by more than expected.

On Thursday, the U.S. will give its first estimate of how much the economy grew during the first three months of the year. Economists expect to see that growth cooled to a 1.9% annual rate, down from 2.6% at the end of 2022.

All told, the S&P 500 fell 65.41 points to 4,071.63. The Dow dropped 344.57 points to 33,530.83, and the Nasdaq fell 238.05 points to 11,799.16.

In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 3.39% from 3.50% late Monday. It helps set rates for mortgages and other important loans.

The two-year yield, which moves more on expectations for Fed action, fell to 3.95% from 4.11%.

In markets overseas, stock indexes closed mostly lower in Europe and were mixed across Asia overnight.

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	NA	NA	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	
	5.38% APY 11 mos. CD Special - $100K Minimum to open - Member FDIC									
First Credit Bank	NA	NA	3.50	4.25	4.75	4.50	4.50	4.00	4.00	310-273-2500
	NA	NA	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	
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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Harsher penalties won't save us from fentanyl

If the goal is to prevent overdose deaths, testing, treatment and information is the right way to go.

MATT ROURKE Associated Press

THE OVERDOSE-reversal drug Narcan is displayed during training for use in 2018 in Philadelphia.

WHO MADE fentanyl?

Not the legitimate stuff that's prescribed for post-surgical pain, but the illicit street drug that's killing Americans at a frightening pace. It's concocted in labs in the U.S. and Mexico, using chemicals shipped from China, India and elsewhere overseas.

But in a very real sense, the co-manufacturer is U.S. criminal justice policy. The war on drugs made fentanyl — much as it turned morphine into heroin and cocaine into crack.

Illicit drug makers trying to evade authorities seek ways to pack more punch into smaller packages in order to make their wares progressively cheaper to transport, easier to hide and quicker to hook the ultimate user.

Marijuana legalization activist Richard Cowan called it the iron law of prohibition: the harder the enforcement, the harder the drugs.

Not just harder, though, but more hazardous, because the buyers at the end of the black market chain may not even know fentanyl has been mixed in with the drugs they purchased. Fentanyl now taints counterfeit pain and anxiety pills sold in Mexican pharmacies and on the dark web and peddled among high school students.

Several times, the nation has faced an epidemic of drug use and had to choose a criminal justice or public health response. Almost every time, we've chosen wrong.

And now there's tranq — the street name for xylazine, a horse tranquilizer. The veterinary medicine's effects somewhat mimic what users expect from opioids, so it's appearing in fentanyl. People who think they're buying fake Percocet may ingest xylazine and die from it without ever knowing they were putting horse tranquilizer in their bodies. Survivors often suffer rotting flesh wounds that cannot be treated with usual remedies.

No doubt there will be new restrictions on veterinary anesthetics, followed by interdiction, tough criminal sentencing of sellers — and then emergence of a cheaper and more powerful substitute. That's the pattern. Enforcement never reduces demand.

Several times in recent history, the nation has faced an epidemic of destructive drug use and had to pick between a criminal justice or public health response. Almost every time, we've chosen the wrong path.

Think of the response network we might have built had we seen the crack epidemic of the 1980s and early 1990s for the health crisis it was. Street teams to help people in overdose crisis, testing to ensure supplies aren't tainted, clinics to help former users recover, community support, employment, education, respect and a sense of common purpose and destiny instead of hatred and revulsion for the poor, the sick and people of color. More doctors, nurses, clinicians, peer counselors. More funding to attract and support them, more laws to encourage treatment and candor without fear of prosecution.

Imagine how that more robust public health infrastructure and deeper public familiarity and confidence in it might have helped us better handle the prescription opioid crisis. Or COVID-19. Or fentanyl.

Instead we chose to escalate already bloated public spending on police, prosecution and prison. That's what we know best, and the first tool we think of for responding to drug-related waves of illness and death that epidemiologists say move through the population and should be managed much like influenza, HIV or the coronavirus.

We don't lock up people with contagious disease as our forebears once did, although AIDS touched the fearful part of our collective psyche, and early in the crisis some leaders called for criminal sanctions and exile of patients. But our more modern, more sophisticated and more humane selves eventually won out.

So how will it be with fentanyl? A California State Assembly committee on Thursday is due to take up a number of bills intended to respond to the overdose and poisoning crisis. Most proposals follow the route of fear and failure: harsher penalties, longer sentences. We know what's at the end of that road. It's fantasy to think that we can interdict or punish our way out of this crisis, or that a criminal sanction will better dissuade someone from ingesting an illegal drug than the prospect of instant death or rotting flesh. It is magical thinking to believe that we will stop demand, or that manufacturers will quit and find a more wholesome line of work.

But if our goal is to stop the dying, we know what to do, even though we've so rarely done it before. Make readily available testing of illegal substances without fear of prosecution. Provide broad access to overdose antidotes such as Narcan for fentanyl, and expand research to find a similar antidote for tranq. Promote harm reduction techniques such as safer supplies of illicit drugs, safe consumption sites, clinics for recovery, funding and legal infrastructure to match. We're back at the crossroads. This time we can choose a better path. Or we can pick the wrong one all over again.

Israel at 75 — still unsettled, divided and at war with itself

As on its 50th anniversary, the Jewish state is locked in an internal struggle and unsure of its direction under Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership.

NICHOLAS GOLDBERG

WHEN ISRAEL CELEBRATED its 50th anniversary, it was every bit as divided and disheartened as it is today, on the eve of its 75th.

Fifty years after its creation in 1948 as a refuge for Jews, who'd undergone two millenniums of wandering and a devastating genocidal holocaust, Israel was rich and reasonably democratic (for those it chose to enfranchise). It had revitalized a near-dead language, survived four major wars and was in the middle of a peace process with the Palestinians.

Yet its achievements seemed distant, its ideals battered, and it was a land of "unfulfilled dreams in the grips of a bruising internal struggle."

That's what I wrote 25 years ago, in 1998, as a Jerusalem-based correspondent covering the 50th anniversary. It has surprised me, in rereading it, how fraught and similar the situation is today.

Israel marked its 50 years of existence with symphonies, dance performances, parades, a flotilla and a concert of cantors, but the country was adrift, the peace process was stumbling and Israelis were still reeling from the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin three years earlier at, of all things, a peace rally. Left and right were at daggers, as were religious and secular Jews. The conflict with the Palestinians raged on — West Bank settlements, terrorist attacks, mutual recriminations and growing distrust. Increasingly empty promises of peace.

Abba Eban, former Israeli foreign minister, told me then: "I worry very much about my country these days. It's very sharply divided, it's disappointing and there's a sense of disillusionment."

Now, 25 years later, Israel is again tense and riven. On its 75th anniversary, left and right are again at war, as are religious and secular. Again, people are flooding the streets in protest.

Though I never would have believed it in 1998, the unjust occupation of Palestinian land seized in the Six-Day War in 1967 continues. Palestinian hopes for independence remain unfulfilled; violence persists; Israeli settlements continue to spread. The occupation has lasted for 56 years, and the conflict seems no closer to resolution.

Fewer and fewer people believe a two-state solution, which seemed inevitable in the 1990s, will spring miraculously back to life.

Israel today faces stiff critiques around the world, including in the U.S.

Here, it receives more support than it used to from evangelical Christians, but less from American Jews — and more from Republicans than Democrats. According to Gallup, Democrats now sympathize more with Palestinians than with Israel, a stunning shift from 2001, when they favored Israel by about 35 points.

The Abraham Accords, a set of normalization agreements with several Arab states forged during the Trump administration, have taken some of the international pressure off Israel to find a solution to the Palestinian conflict. But the underlying issue isn't going away, and more violence seems inevitable, the predictable result of an occupation that festers and chafes.

At the 50th anniversary, I wrote about the challenges to Israeli national mythmaking as the country matured into adulthood. The country's founder David Ben-Gurion was getting a critical rethink; "new historians" were seeking to debunk what they called a distorted "Zionist narrative" of Israeli history. One such story claimed that hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled the country in 1948 voluntarily or at the behest of their leaders — rather than that they'd been pushed out by Israeli soldiers.

Israel's collectivist idealism, too, seemed threatened in 1998. Children born on kibbutzim weren't staying on when they grew up. Socialism was a thing of the past. The Histadrut, the nation's powerful labor union, was losing influence.

During much of the intervening 25 years, the country has been led by the right-wing leader of the Likud Party, Benjamin Netanyahu, now the country's longest-serving prime minister. Netanyahu is serving his sixth term even as he's being tried on bribery and fraud charges.

For much of his tenure, Netanyahu has presided over a country with a booming high-tech economy, which helps explain his continued electoral success. But the government he leads today is more illiberal and reactionary than ever.

Netanyahu's coalition includes several ultranationalist ministers, including Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who believes the occupied territories were promised to the Jews by God, and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who was convicted of "racist" incitement and barred from serving in the army because of his extremism.

For the 50th anniversary, I interviewed Netanyahu, who was then 48 years old and in his first term. He shrugged off the notion that internal dissension was leaving the country battered.

"This is so boring, so untrue," he said. "We're celebrating an enormous triumph. Let those who carp do so on the sidelines. They're just a footnote in this great odyssey."

He's done much to make that final statement come true, outperforming opponents in repeated elections by focusing on fears about security. For years now it's been said that the Israeli left and the Israeli peace movement are dead, or virtually so. The Labor Party, which dominated the country for most of its first 50 years, now holds only four out of the 120 seats in the Knesset, suggesting it has become a footnote indeed.

But once again, Israel is at a transitional moment. Will it continue its descent into reactionary politics? A poll conducted in early April found that just 20% of Israelis believe Netanyahu is doing a good job.

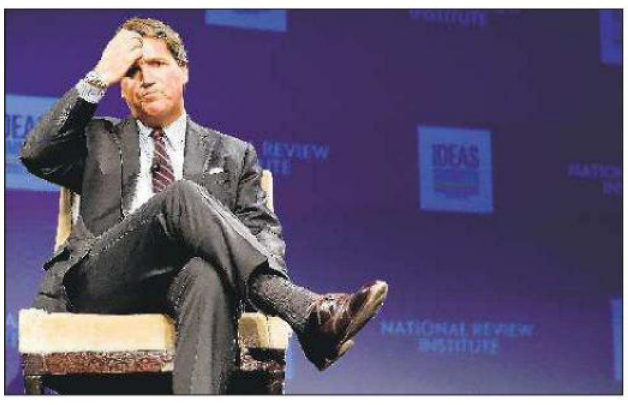
The streets today are full of newly energized Israelis protesting the government's hard-right agenda. Tens of thousands of people — sometimes more than 100,000 — have turned out around the country each week to repudiate the government's plan for so-called judicial reform and other policies that threaten democracy. The demonstrations have continued for 16 straight weeks.

Thousands of military reservists have threatened not to report for duty if the judicial reform is passed.

Here's hoping the right has finally overplayed its hand.

@Nick_Goldberg

LETTERS



CHIP SOMODEVILLA Getty Images

TUCKER CARLSON hosted his final show on Fox News on Friday. He was dismissed Monday.

Will Fox News stop lying? No

Re "Fox News ousts Tucker Carlson," April 25

Tucker Carlson's sudden firing by Fox News makes one wonder if part of its $787.5-million settlement with Dominion Voting Systems was being told to oust its most watched host. Perhaps it was an easier pill to swallow than the network publicly acknowledging it lied about the 2020 election.

In spite of the record defamation settlement and the ouster of its "ratings juggernaut," Fox News will continue to force-feed falsehoods to its audience and do irreparable harm to our entire political system.

VICKI KIPPER
Los Angeles

::

At its inception, Fox News touted itself as a "fair and balanced" media outlet. In 2016, it opted for a new slogan: "Most Watched, Most Trusted." After the 2020 election, Fox initiated yet another slogan: "Standing Up for What's Right."

With such self-promotions wholly discredited by the evidence revealed in the Dominion lawsuit, what will Fox News come up with now? How about some truth in advertising: "Dishing Disinformation."

SANDRA PEREZ
Santa Maria

::

Carlson will be Donald Trump's choice for vice president in 2024. You heard it here first.

ED WOLFMAN
Manhattan Beach

::

With the day of reckoning finally coming to Carlson, what about also holding accountable House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Bakersfield), who gave exclusive access to sensitive surveillance footage of the U.S. Capitol riot to the ousted Fox News host?

What happens now to those recordings?

BEDA SASIS
Temple City

An L.A. mayor for a past era

Re "He loved to hate the press," April 24

Richard Riordan's crowning achievement as mayor was saving the main branch of the L.A. Public Library downtown, which now bears his name. I have no argument against that or his sincere humble concern for the well-being of most of Los Angeles.

But at heart, Riordan was not a participatory democracy leader. He was an old-school, boys-club businessman who thought the best way to address public policy issues was to convene a plutocrat network meeting to decide what was to be done — without participation by the public, and even against the public will if necessary.

The library will stand the test of time as a tribute to him, but let his old-school backroom political methodology die with him.

PETER STEPHEN
NICHOLAS
Los Angeles

::

Riordan was an innovator. In 1994 he created Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, a nonprofit organization that engages under-served communities in building vibrant public spaces. I had the privilege of serving as co-founding executive director from 1994-2009.

Two things Riordan said to me stand out in my mind: "It is easier to ask for forgiveness than permission," which encouraged me to think outside the box; and, "Thanks for making me look good," which made me proud to be a part of his team.

JOYCE PERKINS
Los Angeles

::

The piece by reporter James Rainey on Riordan's complicated relationship with the media was, I found, the only one of value on the late mayor. Rather than damning the man with faint praise, Rainey truly delved into the man's character.

As a working-class revolutionary, I can say that Riordan's politics were hardly up my alley. But I had to give him cred for one thing: While Democrats waste our time pretending to be on the side of working people but support capital every time, Riordan was at least honest and honorable enough not to pretend to care about the working class.

We knew where Riordan stood. He made no bones about it.

MICHAEL WEINERT
Encino

HOW TO WRITE TO US

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FOUNDED DECEMBER 4, 1881
A California Times Publication

Executive Chairman Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong

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He's 80 and eternally underestimated — and he'll probably win again

ROBIN ABCARIAN

Looks like JFK's famous torch will not be passing to a new generation anytime soon.

What everyone already suspected just became official: The old man is going for it.

On Tuesday, in a three-minute video posted on Twitter, President Biden announced he will seek reelection.

Get off his lawn, kids.

At 80, Biden is already the oldest president in American history. If he wins a second term, he could become damn near the oldest head of state *in the world*.

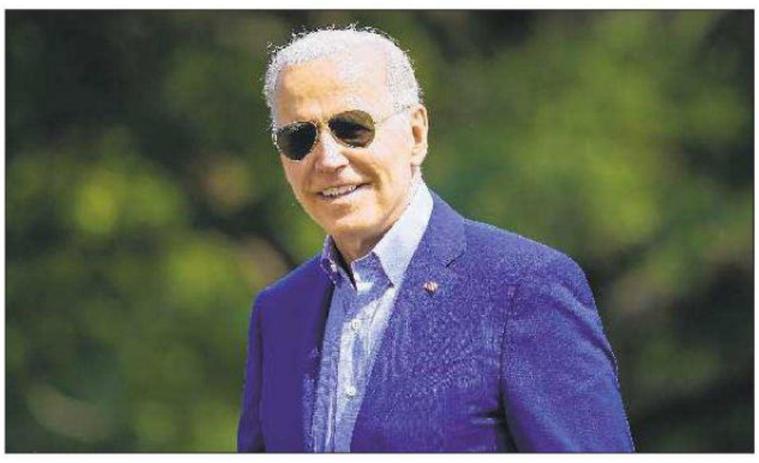
To which I say, so what?

I know what polls show: Biden's approval ratings are low and most Americans think he is too old for a second term. Even a huge chunk of Democrats is unenthusiastic. As my colleague David Lauter reported, a recent Monmouth University poll found that 44% of Democrats would like Biden to bow out and let someone else run. A mere quarter said they wanted Biden to run again, and 30% had no preference.

But after four years of Donald Trump, a mishandled pandemic that killed millions and an economic slump we're just coming out of, do you really need a presidential candidate who sends a tingle up your leg? I don't.

Just give me slow and steady. Oh, and no impeachments or insurrections on their resumes, either.

Obviously, age has taken a toll on Biden. His voice is weaker, his diction is not as clear as it once was. Sometimes I hold my breath when he speaks, fearful of a faux pas. But the president showed as recently as February, when he cleverly turned the tables on MAGA Republican hecklers during his State of the Union speech, that he can dish it out and think on his feet.



Pablo Martinez Monsivais Associated Press

WHAT EVERYONE suspected became official Tuesday — the old man is going for it. President Biden will run again in 2024.

Biden is already the oldest president in U.S. history. If he wins a second term, he could become damn near the oldest head of state *in the world*. To which I say, so what?

And Tuesday, just after his reelection video dropped, he delivered an impassioned speech to labor union leaders at the North America's Building Trades Unions conference, underlining his administration's accomplishments and commitment to working-class America.

"Under my predecessor, Infrastructure Week was a punchline," he said. "On my watch, we're making Infrastructure Decade a headline." A cringey turn of phrase, perhaps, but at least he's on point: In November 2021, he signed into law a bipartisan $1-trillion infrastructure bill, the lack of which had become a recurring joke during the Trump years.

So Biden enters the race with an incumbent's advantage, deep pockets and a sturdy legislative record on which to stand. But, but ... his age!

In our poisonous political environment, partisans, especially on the right, have mastered the art of turning every strength into a weakness.

To critics, the sunny disposition and hearty laugh of Vice President Kamala Harris, who served as a United States senator and attorney general of California, means she's a lightweight. (A sexist trope among many.)

When he ran for president in 2004, former Massachusetts Democratic Sen. John Kerry, who earned two purple hearts in Vietnam, was tarred as a coward by "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth," a ginned-up Republican opposition group whose name is now synonymous with vicious and false political attacks.

Paradoxically, Republicans have turned every weakness of Trump's into a strength.

His poll numbers among Republicans actually went up after he was arraigned in New York on felony charges of business fraud in connection with hush money payments to porn actress Stormy Daniels.

This week, jury selection began in the federal civil trial regarding advice columnist E. Jean Carroll's claim that he raped her in the 1990s. He may yet be criminally charged in connection with his attempt to interfere with Georgia's election results, and for his role in the Jan. 6 insurrection.

God only knows what his approval ratings with MAGA Republicans will be if he ends up in jail. Fully 75% of Republicans polled by Quinnipiac University in March said criminal charges should not disqualify him from running again.

On Monday, the day Fox News fired Tucker Carlson — or, let him go, lol — I tuned into Sean Hannity's program to see how he would handle the news. The biggest story of the day went virtually unmentioned on Fox News. In fact, Hannity glossed over Carlson's firing to attack Don Lemon, who was axed by CNN, also on Monday.

"We're not talking about Tucker," Hannity said. "I don't have any details on it. He had a massive audience and he had a huge following. This guy [Lemon] had nobody."

What Hannity really wanted to talk about, it turned out, was the president's son, Hunter Biden, and his work for various international companies. This will be the Republican obsession until November 2024.

If Biden's advanced age and Hunter's poor judgment are all the MAGA Republicans have got, I'm putting my money on a second Biden term. Especially if Trump, at 76 no spring chicken himself, is in the race.

@robinkabcarian

Charlie Riedel Associated Press

A PROTEST in Kansas City, Mo. Ralph Yarl, a Black teen, went to a wrong address and was shot.

How self-defense laws can allow violent racism to go unpunished

By Jody Armour

Under standard self-defense doctrine, hair-trigger assumptions about Black boys and men that may have caused Andrew Lester to shoot 16-year-old Ralph Yarl for merely ringing his doorbell could shield Lester from criminal liability. That reflex, even if rooted in racism, might well be deemed reasonable in the eyes of the law.

This deeply disturbing legal reality highlights the limited capacity of our legal system to adequately address such incidents even if we repealed "stand your ground" laws for civilians and abolished qualified immunity for law enforcement. Even without those unjust laws, the general law of self-defense makes allowances for harboring negative racial stereotypes about Black people by excusing frightened civilians and police officers who act on them.

As long as these widespread stereotypes persist, the law of self-defense will continue to let off police officers and ordinary citizens who use lethal force more hastily against Black people than similarly situated white people. That's because self-defense doctrine permits lethal defensive force against persons who reasonably appear to pose an imminent threat of serious harm.

Lester has been charged with two felonies, first-degree assault and armed criminal action, and has pleaded not guilty. To escape conviction, he'll need to convince a jury that he honestly and reasonably believed that he had to shoot Yarl to avoid being assaulted or suffering a home invasion — even if he was mistaken in his belief that he was under attack.

So how does the law determine whether a shooter's beliefs and reactions were reasonable?

"Reasonableness" in legal discourse is a term of art whose legal usage differs markedly from that of ordinary language. A "reasonable" attitude or belief in legal discourse is not necessarily rational or right. Instead, the reasonable person is the average, typical person, and reasonable beliefs are typical beliefs. The "reasonable person" is more appropriately described as the "ordinary person" (i.e., a person who possesses ordinary human weaknesses).

The laudable moral intuition behind this approach to criminal responsibility is that we should not blame and punish people for ordinary expressions of human frailty. In applying the reasonable person standard, jurors — themselves typical people holding typical beliefs — ordinarily judge the reasonableness of the defendant's beliefs by projecting themselves into the shooter's situation and asking whether they would have shared his beliefs under similar circumstances.

If the answer is yes, if the shooter arouses their sympathy, they will find his reactions reasonable and acquit.

A major problem arises, however, when anti-Black bias is so typical, ordinary and commonplace in American society. And because it is, actions taken that kill or maim Black people are, in that sense, "reasonable."

Polls and studies repeatedly demonstrate that most Americans — consciously or unconsciously — hold negative stereotypes about Black people and crime. For instance, experiments conducted with police officers showed that officers were quicker to decide to shoot an unarmed Black target than a similarly situated unarmed white target. And a comprehensive survey of social science literature by the American Bar Assn.'s National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Law in 2015 found that "the stereotypical association of Black males with aggression and crime" causes fearful people to perceive Blacks as potential threats, "which can translate to diminished empathetic responses, greater hostility, and a tendency to respond violently towards Black targets."

Lester, for example, said Yarl was a "Black male approximately 6 feet tall." Lester claimed "he was 'scared to death' due to the male's size." In fact, the teenager is 5 foot 8 and 140 pounds, according to his family. Research has shown that people often "adultify" Black children, that is, perceive young Black males as bigger and more physically threatening than young white males of the same size. When a police officer shot and killed 12-year-old Tamir Rice in 2014, while he was playing in a park, the president of the Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Assn. described Rice as "a 12-year-old in an adult body."

Such discriminatory reactions often occur in the cognitive unconscious. But whether conscious or not, the consequences for Black victims are similar. By excusing mistakes rooted in ordinary human frailty, the law of self-defense can be used to defend and forgive racist instincts.

So long as Black boys and men draw racism-based fear, self-defense claims in the shooting of unarmed Black people will continue to be raised. To minimize the harm these stereotypes cause in encounters between police officers and Black folk, we must minimize unnecessary contacts between these armed and anxious state actors and the Black community.

Do we need armed officers enforcing traffic laws, for instance, given how fraught these stops often are, how speculative their benefits, and how often minor traffic infractions are used as pretexts to profile Black and brown people? Reducing the footprint of law enforcement in the lives of African Americans reduces the opportunities for the ordinary human frailty of officers to result in unnecessary tragedies.

One big thing civilians can do to minimize the harms stereotypes cause in interactions with Black victims is get rid of the guns in their lives. Recognize that guns, in the context of ubiquitous unconscious and conscious racism, are a persistent and pervasive menace to Black lives, even in the hands of the well-intentioned. Get them out of your holsters and your homes. Make gun control a part of your anti-racism activism.

Jody Armour is a professor of law at USC and the author of "N*gga Theory: Race, Language, Unequal Justice, and the Law."

E. Jean Carroll's case is dire for Trump

HARRY LITMAN

The many legal perils amassing against former President Trump have a way of blurring together at this point. But the civil trial of the writer E. Jean Carroll's lawsuit for assault and defamation, which began Tuesday in New York, is about to stand out dramatically from the pack.

That's because the law, the evidence and the personalities involved portend a lopsided and relatively brief trial that will portray Trump vividly as a liar, bully and sexual predator.

And we can probably add "coward" to that because Trump decided not to even show up Tuesday to face Carroll's serious allegations. It's a calculation that is likely to provoke resentment and contempt from the jury.

Not that the jurors, who were selected Tuesday, will need any additional reasons to hold Trump accountable. Carroll's evidence will likely be more than enough, especially considering the poverty of Trump's defense.

We can expect the case to feature Trump's own words in his deposition and elsewhere, all of which are admissible under the rules of evidence. That could include such gems as Trump's calling Carroll "a whack job" he had "never met" and mistaking the writer for his ex-wife Marla Maples when he was shown a photograph of her.

The dramatic centerpiece will be Carroll's own account of the violent three minutes during which she says Trump raped her in the dressing room of a department store. Two witnesses who heard her harrowing story soon afterward are expected to rebut Trump's public accusation that Carroll is making it all up.

It gets even worse for the former president. Under a provision of the federal evidence code known as Rule 415, the court may admit evidence that the defendant "committed any other sexual assault." It's a rule particular to sexual assault trials; evidence of past crimes is not usually allowed in court so readily. And while a jury is not supposed to draw on such evidence to conclude that "if he did it before, he must have done it this time," it's an inference that's hard to avoid.

Under 415, U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan has ruled that Carroll's team may present the testimony of two other alleged Trump victims, Jessica Leeds and Natasha Stoynoff, who say Trump assaulted them on an airplane and at Mar-a-Lago, respectively. The jury is also expected to hear the infamous "Access Hollywood" tape in which Trump bragged about grabbing women's genitals.

There will be a few other witnesses, but this is unlikely to be a long trial. Carroll's case will probably take about a week to present.

How will Trump answer this damning evidence? He gave the court and Carroll a list of exactly two witnesses — an expert to rebut one of Carroll's witnesses and himself.

For reasons I've detailed before, it's highly improbable that Trump will take the stand. Carroll's formidable lawyer, Roberta Kaplan, would have a field day exposing him as an inveterate liar and singularly unreliable witness. The asymmetrical rules of evidence prohibit Trump from using his deposition or his other out-of-court statements in his own defense; he can only testify to that end.

Trump's defense has other problems. His lawyer, Joe Tacopina, is a blustery brawler and a poor choice given the charges. Moreover, Tacopina has already provoked the ire of the no-nonsense trial judge with stunts designed to get around the rules, including a recent "motion for clarification" regarding Stoynoff's expected testimony. Carroll's attorney, by contrast, has a commanding courtroom presence and special expertise in representing victims of sexual assault.

And because this is a civil trial, Carroll's charges need only be proven by "a preponderance of the evidence," not the tougher criminal standard of "beyond a reasonable doubt."

Recent months have made the once-Teflon Trump look newly vulnerable on many fronts. I expect the Carroll case to move quickly from allegations against Trump to adjudication, a milestone on his long road to accountability.

Harry Litman is the host of the "Talking Feds" podcast. @harrylitman

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LAPD report: Half of people hurt in chases are bystanders

About 1,000 people total have been injured in 4,203 pursuits since 2018.

By Libor Jany and James Queally

Almost half of the people injured or killed during police chases in Los Angeles since 2018 were bystanders, according to new LAPD data.

The findings, presented Tuesday to the Board of Police Commissioners, found that LAPD officers have been involved in at least 4,203 pursuits since 2018; roughly a quarter (1,032) resulted in a collision that caused injuries or death.

Nearly half of these injury crashes hurt people who weren't involved in the chase — with 496 injured and nine killed. By comparison, 462 fleeing suspects were injured in that span, with five more dying, according to the report.

Sixty officers were injured during chases; none have died.

Most collisions happened relatively early in a police chase, with more than three-fourths occurring within five minutes of the start of a pursuit, the report said. The average speed of pursuits was 46 mph; 64% of collisions occurred when chases reached speeds of 41 to 80 mph. Slightly over half of chases ended up covering a distance of less than two miles.

LAPD Deputy Chief Donald Graham said in an interview Tuesday that the debate over police chases is more nuanced than arguing for an across-the-board ban on pursuits for nonviolent crimes such as vehicle thefts. Many stolen vehicles are involved in hit-and-runs or are used to commit further crimes, he said.

Graham said the department has overhauled its training, supervision and policies to reduce the risk of crashes during high-speed pursuits. The increase in pursuit-related crashes coincides with a rise in vehicle thefts, he said.

"We're telling our officers to be proactive and look for

[See **LAPD,** B4]

Truck kills mom, critically injures child in crosswalk

Pickup driver possibly impaired, police say, in 'horrific' crash near elementary school.

By Richard Winton

A mother was killed and her 6-year-old daughter critically injured when they were hit by a likely impaired driver as they walked in a crosswalk near Hancock Park Elementary School on Tuesday morning, officials said.

Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore said officers took the driver of the white pickup truck into custody after the fatal collision about 8 a.m in the Mid-Wilshire area.

"There are early signs that he is impaired, and that is a contributing factor in this horrific collision that resulted in the loss of this mother and the critical injuries to this young child," Moore said.

After hitting the mother and daughter, the truck plowed into a two-story apartment complex in the 6200 block of Colgate Avenue, authorities said.

Los Angeles Fire Department paramedics declared the 35-year-old mother dead at the scene and rushed the 6-year-old girl to a hospital. The truck driver was also taken to a hospital in "moderate condition," according to LAFD officials.

LAPD Deputy Chief Blake Chow, who was overseeing the scene as investigators began to piece together the deadly incident, said it was "a tragedy beyond anybody's imagination."

"You have a child, 6 years old, that attends first grade here, presumably being walked to school by her mother and they're struck by a vehicle," Chow said to reporters at the scene. "It's going to have implications not only obviously for the

[See **Crash,** B4]

Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

THE TRUCK that hit and killed a mother and injured her child crashed into an apartment building.

DWP board asks why power poles go unrepaired

Overdue work came to light after city was sued over a downed line. The case was settled for $38 million. **B3**

Irvine hospital to be all-electric

UCI Medical Center Irvine-Newport, slated to open by 2025, will have no reliance on natural gas. **B2**

Lottery **B4**

Photographs by Irfan Khan Los Angeles Times

HEATHER BARRON, Anthony's mother, wipes her tears at Tuesday's hearing while listening to relatives who repeatedly called her a "monster." A cousin of Anthony said: "I can no longer claim her as my family."

Mother, boyfriend get life for Anthony Avalos' murder

Relatives say they'll live forever with the pain of 10-year-old's death

KAREEM LEIVA, the boyfriend, at the sentencing in Los Angeles County Superior Court. Seventeen relatives and witnesses testified at the emotional session.

By Noah Goldberg

A solemn procession of teens and children all dressed in black strode into a Los Angeles courtroom Tuesday and stepped up to address the judge. They all wanted one thing: a life sentence for Heather Barron, 33, and Kareem Leiva, 37.

The judge granted their wish.

Barron and her boyfriend, Leiva, who were convicted last month of torturing Anthony Avalos and his siblings and ultimately killing Anthony, 10, Barron's oldest child, were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, capping a painful five years for Anthony's other family members.

Seventeen relatives and witnesses testified during

[See **Sentencing,** B5]

Gray whale stays in S.F. Bay

Scientists are fearful of ship strikes on the animal, which has stuck around 75 days.

By Summer Lin

A gray whale has been in the San Francisco Bay since early February, a record amount of time that could put the animal at risk of being struck by a ship, according to the Marine Mammal Center.

The whale, which arrived Feb. 9, was spotted Monday — 75 days later — by a research team on a boat, according to Bill Keener of the cetacean conservation biology team at the Marine Mammal Center, a nonprofit rescue organization. The previous record for a gray whale in the bay was 46 days.

"We can recognize the pigmentation patterns on whales. You can tell them apart if you look closely enough," he said. "This whale has been here for 2½ months. That's a record for us — we haven't seen one stay that long before."

During a typical year, the

[See **Whale,** B5]

Gary Coronado Los Angeles Times

SKIERS AND snowboarders at Snow Summit in 2022. The Big Bear-area resort expects to stay open through the end of this month, and possibly into May.

A good run while it lasted

As melt sets in, Snow Summit is the last Southern California resort offering skiing and snowboarding

By Christian Martinez

Ski and snowboard season is finally winding down at Big Bear resorts after a winter that saw a series of storms dump hundreds of inches of fresh snow on runs.

"We're down to our final hill," said Jason Kanton, a spokesman for Big Bear Mountain Resort, which operates the Snow Summit, Bear Mountain and Snow Valley resorts.

The snow not only provided great conditions for skiers and snowboarders, but the sheer volume also allowed the resorts to stay open much longer than usual.

By late March, the resort had 75 to 100 inches of fresh powder on the ground after having received 210 inches since the start of the season.

But the intense storms also blocked residents' access to essentials like food, water and medical attention, with some people trapped in their homes for days. At least 12 people died during the storms in the San Bernardino County Mountains.

Bear Mountain's last day of the season was Sunday, and Snow Valley closed last week. Snow Summit is expected to operate through at least the end of April, with operators still deciding whether it will remain open into May.

[See **Snow,** B5]

SPORTS ON THE BACK: LeBron James leads Lakers with grit, Bill Plaschke writes. **B12**

All-electric hospital should open by 2025

UCI Medical Center Irvine-Newport campus will have no reliance on natural gas.

By Lilly Nguyen

Photographs by Scott Smeltzer Times Community News

CONSTRUCTION continues Friday at the 350,000-square-foot UCI Medical Center Irvine-Newport, which broke ground in 2021.

An all-electric medical center — believed to be the first of its kind in the U.S. — is expected to be fully operational in Irvine by 2025.

When plans were being developed in 2019 for an acute medical center at UC Irvine, the team members knew they wanted a facility that could operate entirely under electric power, according to Joe Brothman, facilities and general services director for UCI Health.

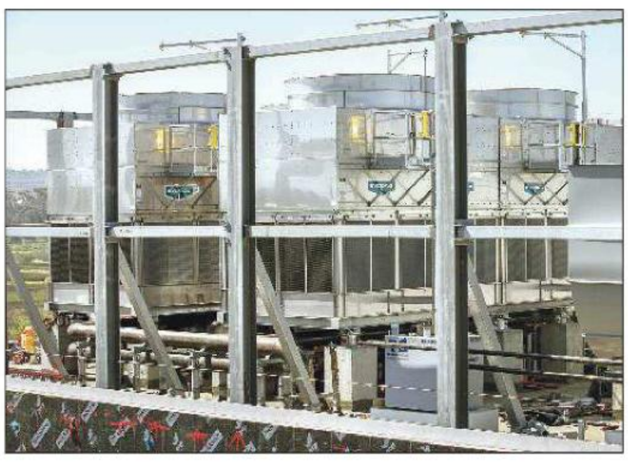
The 144-bed hospital, which broke ground in November 2021, will be part of a $1.3-billion medical complex for the university. UC Irvine says it is likely the first all-electric medical center in the United States.

Brothman said hospitals, and healthcare in general, are heavy contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.

“Our operations are very energy-intensive,” he said. “Operating rooms and medical facilities themselves, due to their regulatory requirements, are usually operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They use a lot of energy and resources.

“We are an industry in the business of healing people,” he added. “If our operations are contributing to negative health externalities, especially ... in underserved populations that have historically had negative health effects because of energy, we’re not fulfilling our mission.”

In addition to the 144-bed hospital and emergency department, the UCI Medical Center Irvine-Newport is expected to include an outpatient center for advanced care, a center for children’s health and the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ambulatory Care building. The advanced care center is expected to be the first of the buildings to open, as soon as next spring.



STATE-OF-THE-ART green “chillers” will be used for cooling the acute care hospital at the campus.

This will be the second major medical campus in the UC Irvine system; the first is in Orange.

“The new [center] will be a full-service academic medical complex, bringing a broad range of the most advanced healthcare services to coastal and southern Orange County, including access to the hundreds of clinical trials underway at UCI Health,” Chief Executive Chad Lefteris said at the time of the groundbreaking.

Members of the media on Friday were given the opportunity to see inside the 350,000-square-foot center.

The hospital and the ambulatory care center will be powered by an Essential Utilities plant that does not rely on carbon combustion or natural gas.

Brothman noted that the hospital would have backup diesel generators in the event of a power failure, but the goal is for day-to-day operations to be completely under electric power.

“Since our health system is able to purchase electricity on the open market, we procure 100% sustainably produced electricity,” he said. “The operations at our Irvine campus will be some of the greenest energy, portfolio-wise, that we are aware of, especially for an academic medical center of this size and complexity.”

He added that the central utilities will incorporate a “smattering” of technologies that will heat and cool the building by producing chilled and hot water, as well as steam for humidification and cleaning. Instead of the standard single central boiler, he said, the hospital will have small steam boilers at each point of use.

“It won’t be one piped steam line running around our campus, so that means that during an earthquake or construction, there isn’t a risk of rupturing a steam line and rendering our heating, cooling or cleaning unable to do that critical function,” he said.

Another advantage is that the hospital won’t be affected by fluctuations in prices of natural gas.

“It’s a way for us to hedge our bets. ... We’re not beholden to those energy prices that are totally out of our control,” Brothman said. “We can choose to use electricity and purchase power on the open market.”

Although full electrification of UCI Health’s other facilities is far away, Brothman said, there is a team with the organization that is seeking out opportunities to make the switch at existing buildings, including those on the Orange campus.

Nguyen writes for Times Community News.

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Influencer Ali on hook for loan from Getty heir

By Matt Hamilton

The long-standing efforts of a Getty heir to recover thousands of dollars she loaned to journalist and Twitter influencer Yashar Ali have intensified, with a debt collector now seeking to seize his future income and money he gets through online payment platforms like Venmo.

According to papers filed Friday in L.A. County Superior Court, Ali owes well over $200,000 on loans made to him by Ariadne Getty, a philanthropist and granddaughter of oil tycoon J. Paul Getty. The online journalist's debt has ballooned after years of nonpayment.

Getty loaned Ali about $180,000 between 2012 and 2014. Ali has not disputed that Getty loaned him the money, nor that he defaulted on the initial loan after paying only $1,000.

After years of receiving few payments, Getty sued him in 2017 for the outstanding money plus interest. In 2019, a judgment was entered against Ali for $166,429. The sum remains "fully unpaid" and, with interest, stands at $232,769, according to a motion filed Friday.

The debt collector is asking for the power to seize funds sent to Ali on online platforms such as PayPal, Venmo, Zelle, GoFundMe and Square. The debt collector also wants "all rights to future payments" that Ali may get from his newsletter on Substack; income he derives from Twitter and future payments from any freelance journalism he publishes at Huffpost, MSNBC News or New York magazine, according to the filing.

Ali did not respond to a message seeking comment. Jesse Levin, an attorney who defended Ali against Getty's suit, told The Times he no longer represented the journalist and was unaware if he had another lawyer.

Ali worked in Democratic politics, including for Gov. Gavin Newsom, before rising to prominence on social media. His ascendance to the status of "Twitter power broker" was the subject of a 2021 profile in Los Angeles magazine that asserted: "Part investigative journalist, part gossip columnist, and part trusted confidante, Ali is a uniquely twenty-first-century media personality."

The article also noted Ali's "tangled relationships" with celebrities across the Golden State, including the unpaid loans from Getty, and stated that "for a journalist who puts so much of his private life into the public sphere, he is secretive and resistant to scrutiny."

After the article was published, Ali sued the magazine for defamation. Earlier this year, attorneys for the magazine convinced a judge to strike two of Ali's three causes of action in the lawsuit, and the lawyers are now seeking more than $40,000 in legal fees from Ali. The remaining portion of the case is pending.

Although Getty secured the judgment against Ali, it has been "assigned," or transferred, to a third party, Capital Asset Protection in Calabasas.

Arden Silverman, owner of Capital Asset Protection, echoed the Los Angeles magazine article, telling The Times that Ali was "more difficult than average" to track down. Ali has no property and does not have "any known local bank accounts," according to court papers.

"He seems to cast more of a shadow than your traditional person," Silverman said. "Notwithstanding his persona on social media, he's been a bit more difficult to ascertain his whereabouts."

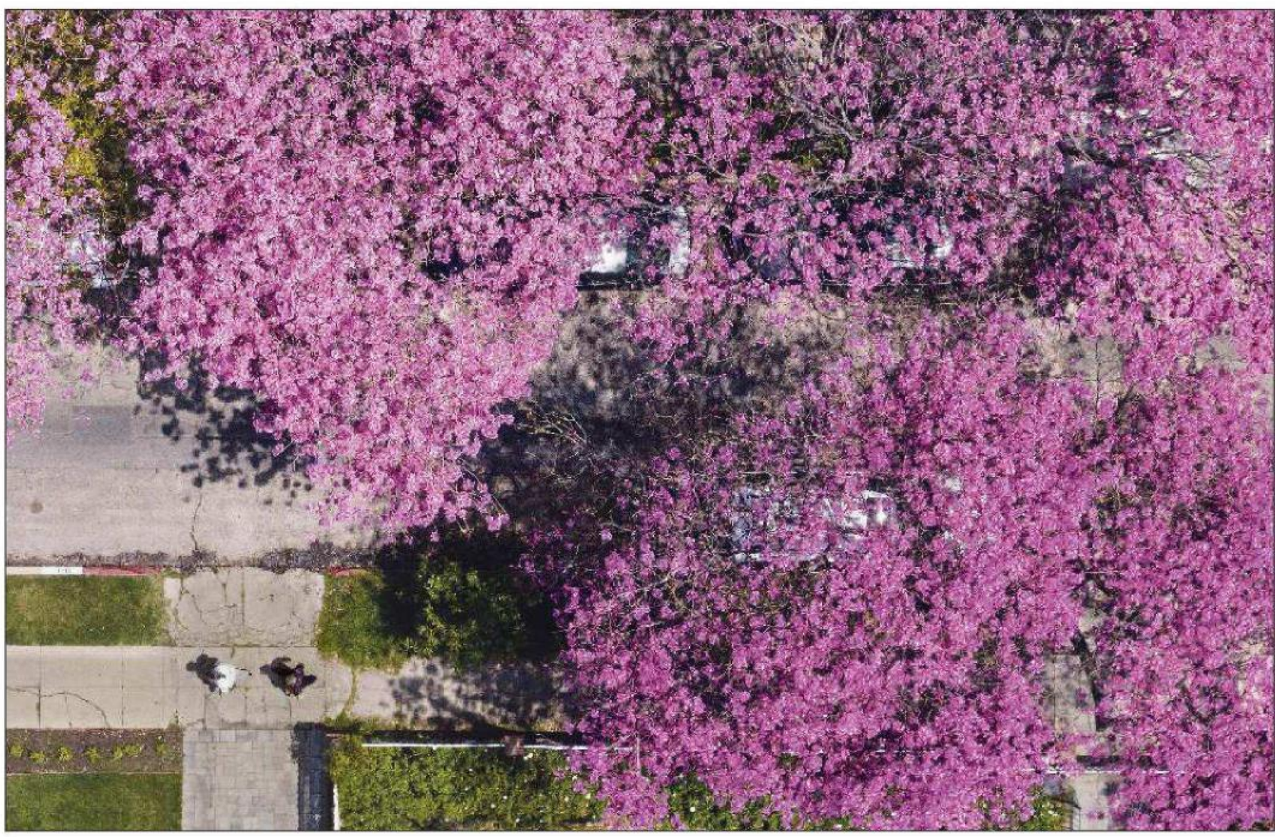
In the court filing, Silverman's company is also seeking to prevent Paypal, Venmo, Square, GoFundMe, Zelle, Huffpost, MSNBC News, New York magazine and X Corp, parent of Twitter, from sending Ali "any compensation" — essentially diverting his income until the debt is paid off.

Silverman said he was less familiar with the underlying dispute that led to the judgment against Ali and was focused on simply obtaining the money owed.

"By the time it gets to me, there's only a piece of paper that says, 'A owes B,' " Silverman said.

A hearing on the motion is scheduled for July 5.

> 'He seems to cast more of a shadow than your traditional person. Notwithstanding his persona on social media, he's been a bit more difficult to ascertain his whereabouts.'
>
> — Arden Silverman, Capital Asset Protection, of collecting debts from Yashar Ali



Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

IN THE PINK

It must be spring: Serrano Avenue in Los Feliz has again become one of L.A.'s most beautiful streets. Visitors are greeted by a colorful canopy of pink and purple courtesy of the resident trumpet trees.

DWP lags as hundreds of safety issues crop up with equipment

Officials blame faulty oversight for not making required fixes a high priority.

By Dakota Smith

Top officials at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power on Tuesday blamed poor oversight and planning to explain why power poles and other utility equipment flagged as unsafe have gone unrepaired in recent years.

The Times reported this week that the department launched an effort about three weeks ago to repair 1,600 of the utility's most dangerous power poles. Some have wood that is severely deteriorated — either in the poles or in the cross-arms, which hold high-voltage wires in place — while others have electrical equipment that needs replacing, officials said.

The overdue repairs came under scrutiny following a lawsuit against the city over a downed DWP power line that killed a father and daughter in Panorama City in 2021. The city recently agreed to settle the case for $38 million.

At Tuesday's meeting of the board that oversees the DWP, utility officials said that as of Saturday, the utility had 753 outstanding priority one tickets. That classification means "there is an immediate safety and/or reliability risk," according to the California Public Utilities Commission.

The DWP's own standard is to fix a priority one ticket within 24 hours or perform a temporarily fix and reclassify it with lower priority, officials said.

In explaining the backlog, DWP officials told the board that a contractor was brought on to help the utility's inspection program in 2021.

In the first year, the contractor identified five times the number of issues that the utility had reported the previous year, officials said. But at the time, the utility was focused on replacing poles, not priority one tickets.

Priority one tickets aren't necessarily assigned to pole replacements, but can also be assigned to cross-arms or other items, Brian Wilbur, senior assistant general manager, told the commission.

Cynthia McClain-Hill, president of the Board of Water and Power Commissioners, asked Wilbur whether priority one tickets "were simply not prioritized?"

"That is correct," Wilbur replied.

DWP General Manager Marty Adams told the board that the department failed to use the list of the most urgent repairs to inform the order of work. "We're trying to figure out exactly how that disconnect [was] allowed to happen," Adams said.

Officials told the commissioners that 695 priority one tickets were closed as of late March. Of that group, 519 work requests were completed, 157 were classified to another priority and 79 tickets were canceled, either because the ticket was a duplicate or the work was completed on another request.

Board members expressed frustration with the revelations about the repairs and asked for reports back on the planned fixes. Others also worried about the utility's separate backlog of priority two tickets, which can also pose problems.

Crews are working seven days a week and contractors are being brought on to address the backlog, officials said. The backlog of priority one repairs is expected to be resolved by May 16, officials said.

At the same time, the utility is receiving up to seven new priority one tickets each day, officials said.

Questioning DWP staff about the lack of oversight, McClain-Hill cited a 2014 Daily News story on the utility's failure to replace aging poles and associated equipment.

Three years earlier, the state's Public Utilities Commission audited the DWP's operations and concluded that the utility did not inspect its overhead wires frequently enough to ensure they are in good condition.

Jason Armond Los Angeles Times

DWP Chief Operating Officer Aram Benyamin heard from board members about safety concerns.

Unlicensed medical care is alleged

Man illegally treated thousands in Toluca Lake, D.A. says. Not true, his attorney says.

By Grace Toohey

A Studio City man is facing criminal charges after investigators say he illegally provided medical care to thousands of patients at his Toluca Lake facility without a license, according to the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

Stephan Gevorkian, 44, is facing five felony counts of practicing medicine without certification for his work at Pathways Medical, an alternative medicine provider he owned and operated that focused on intravenous vitamin therapy.

Gevorkian is accused of falsely claiming to be a licensed doctor and "practicing medicine on thousands of individuals for several years," including offering treatment for serious medical conditions such as cancer and viral infections, according to a news release from prosecutors.

"Practicing medicine without a license is not only a criminal activity in California, it can cause irreparable harm to the health of unsuspecting people, some with serious illnesses, who believe they are under the care of a licensed physician," Dist. Atty. George Gascón said in the release.

Investigators are searching for patients treated by Gevorkian and asked anyone who may have been affected to call the district attorney's Consumer Protection Division at (213) 257-2450.

A few months ago, an undercover investigator sought a medical consultation with Gevorkian at Pathways Medical, which conducts a blood test before offering patients treatments, prosecutors said. During the undercover operation, investigators with the California Department of Consumer Affairs said, Gevorkian failed to accurately address abnormal levels of a hormone that could indicate a serious medical condition.

Gevorkian's attorney, Justin E. Sterling, denied the allegations against his client and said Gevorkian "looks forward to vigorously defending himself."

"It's important to acknowledge that what is thought to be known or understood early on is not always the case in the end," Sterling said in a statement. "Any suggestion that Mr. Gevorkian was impersonating a doctor in an effort to treat unsuspecting patients is demonstrably false."

He did not immediately respond to follow-up questions asking what the prosecutors got wrong in the case.

The website for Pathways Medical was listed as "under construction" Tuesday, but in archived posts from the site, the clinic said it was focused on filling in the gaps from modern medicine through "a combination of intravenous vitamin therapy, oral supplements and a diet change based on your individual bloodwork."

PATHWAYS
10730

Dania Maxwell Los Angeles Times

STEPHAN GEVORKIAN practiced medicine without a license at Pathways Medical in Toluca Lake, prosecutors say. They urge his patients to contact them.

Huntington Park car chase ends in crash; several hurt

By Terry Castleman

Four people were hospitalized after a law enforcement pursuit in Huntington Park ended in a violent crash Tuesday morning, authorities said.

About 7 a.m., a suspect in an allegedly stolen pickup truck fled from sheriff's deputies, leading to a chase that lasted less than a minute before the truck crashed into a sedan at Randolph Street and South Boyle Avenue, said Veronica Santom, a spokesperson for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Both vehicles were significantly damaged. The suspect was taken into custody at the scene, and several people were treated by L.A. County Fire Department personnel, with four taken to a hospital with minor injuries, Santom said.

Car chases are a quintessential Los Angeles phenomenon, with television stations frequently airing them live, most famously in the 1994 low-speed chase involving O.J. Simpson's Ford Bronco.

A 2017 L.A. County grand jury called for revamping the Sheriff's Department's chase policies — as well as those of the Los Angeles Police Department — after Times reporting revealed that 1 in 10 car chases initiated by the LAPD between 2006 and 2014 resulted in injuries to civilians.

The grand jury questioned the need to chase people suspected of nonviolent crimes.

This year, two LAPD pursuits ended in crashes that killed innocent bystanders.

On Jan. 31, a stolen pickup truck fleeing officers crashed into a parked Honda Civic in Panorama City, killing two men inside. LAPD Chief Michel Moore said the department would examine whether the pursuit followed policy.

About two weeks later, on Feb. 16, a 19-year-old Cal State Northridge student was killed when the car he was driving was hit by a vehicle being pursued in connection with a suspected robbery.

496 bystanders hurt, 9 killed in LAPD chases

[**LAPD,** from B1]
these situations [that are] going to cause an increase in the number of pursuits," he said.

Under LAPD policy, officers are allowed to initiate a pursuit in response to a suspected felony or for certain misdemeanors such as reckless or drunk driving.

The LAPD has long struggled to limit the danger that its pursuits pose to civilians.

From 2006 to 2014, 334 bystanders were hurt as a result of crashes caused by LAPD chases. During that time, 1 in 10 pursuits resulted in the injury of someone who was not participating in the pursuit, according to a previous Times analysis of California Highway Patrol data.

In 2015 alone, at least 78 bystanders were hurt in LAPD chases, the highest tally in a decade, records show. Two years later, an L.A. County civil grand jury questioned whether the LAPD was properly training its officers and scrutinized the department's practice of, at times, chasing suspects for nonviolent crimes.

Graham said that the LAPD didn't modify its policy in direct response to the Times analyses or the grand jury report, but that "some of the things that we did in the review process have changed." For instance, officers are now being judged not just on the pursuit's outcome but also on their driving tactics. The actions of the passenger officer are also evaluated, he said.

The department's policy on engaging in pursuits is considered permissive compared with those of other major American cities.

The Philadelphia, Phoenix and Dallas police departments have abandoned the practice of chasing people suspected of misdemeanors.

MICHAEL OWEN BAKER For The Times

A STORE in 2016 commemorates Jack Phoenix, 15, who was killed by a fleeing vehicle in an LAPD chase.

The pursuit intervention technique, also known as the PIT maneuver — which the LAPD sometimes uses to bump a fleeing vehicle when it is traveling below 35 mph in order to force it to stop — is banned by police in the country's two other largest cities, New York and Chicago, records show.

The current debate comes against a backdrop of a broader conversation around the role of police traffic enforcement and rising traffic fatalities. A long-delayed study of alternative traffic approaches by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, which could serve as a foundation for new legislation, is expected to be released in the coming weeks.

Recognizing that officers involved in a "high adrenaline situation" such as a pursuit may not be thinking straight, LAPD officers are now required to report their speeds to a supervisor, who can make a "dispassionate" decision of whether to terminate a chase, department officials said during a presentation Tuesday.

Of the 4,203 pursuits over the last five years, 406 ended up being called off by officers or supervisors. After internal investigations, 609 pursuits were found to be out of policy or resulted in an administrative disapproval against the officers involved. Both numbers rose in recent years, the report found.

After the department's presentation, Police Commission President William Briggs said he was concerned by a number of recent chases that led to serious injury to or the death of bystanders. He urged department officials to step up their training to ensure that the "average patrol officer on the street" understands and adheres to the LAPD's chase policy.

"It raises the specter that pursuing suspects may not be the best avenue under these circumstances, unless of course the suspect was wanted for ... bank robbery," he said. "What else can the department do to help our officers engage in this type of critical analysis to mitigate or minimize the citizens getting injured?"

Graham responded that the department is training officers to constantly consider their surroundings and weigh factors such as the suspects' speed and the weather in deciding whether to continue the pursuit.

"We know that this is the most dangerous thing that we do," he said. "These are 3,000-pound bullets that are driving around our city at very high speeds."

LAPD Cmdr. Craig Valenzuela told commissioners that 81% of the chases with the "most catastrophic outcomes" lasted under three minutes.

Valenzuela said LAPD officials have explored the use of various tools that would limit the need to initiate a chase, including one device that deploys a heavy-duty nylon rope designed to entangle the suspect vehicle's axle to slow it down.

The department is also considering an adhesive GPS device, nicknamed "Star Chase," that can be launched at a fleeing vehicle and enables officers to track its movements from a safe distance.

Commissioner Rasha Gerges Shields asked how rising auto theft rates might affect the number of police chases that end with a collision. Some jurisdictions, she pointed out, have banned such pursuits and are turning to technology such as drones to track suspects.

Graham said that he recently took a tour of the "current drone setup" of the Beverly Hills Police Department. The wealthy enclave has in recent years expanded its use of drones, cameras and other surveillance tools to combat crime.

But the blanket surveillance has been met with concern from some privacy rights advocates, who see it as a move toward greater government intrusion into people's lives.

MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

POLICE at the scene of a deadly crash in Mid-Wilshire that led officials to push for safety measures.

Mom killed, child injured by truck

[**Crash,** from B1]
mother, but for the child, for the class, for the family. These types of things, unfortunately, affect many, many lives."

The crash marked Los Angeles' 48th pedestrian fatality this year, Moore said — essentially flat compared with the 50 deaths by mid-April last year, but up from 43 in the same time period in 2019.

Since the start of the pandemic in 2020, LAPD officers have seen a worrying trend that mirrors what is going on across the nation, Moore said, declaring that "the speed at which people are driving their vehicles, the distractions in which individuals are involved in social media or phones or other things ... as well as an increase recently in DUI collisions, particularly in our fatal collisions, is troubling."

L.A. City Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, who represents the area, said there were "no words to convey how horrifying this act of traffic violence is."

"Like tens of thousands of other parents in Los Angeles, I also walked my child to school today," Yaroslavsky said. "It can be a terrifying experience, knowing that distracted drivers are traveling far above speed limits just feet from where our children walk."

Yaroslavsky immediately called for a crossing guard at the intersection where the crash occurred and said she would "be strongly supporting" a plan before the Transportation Committee this week to install speed bumps around every elementary school in Los Angeles.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone who was involved in or witnessed the horrific traffic accident near Hancock Park Elementary School," Los Angeles schools Supt. Alberto Carvalho said in a statement, adding that mental health counselors are available on-site for students and employees.

School board member Nick Melvoin added: "Our hearts are broken over the death of a Hancock Park Elementary parent in a brazen traffic accident this morning — and our prayers are with her daughter who remains in the hospital."

Lottery results

Tonight's SuperLotto Plus
Jackpot: $53 million
Sales close at 7:45 p.m.

Tonight's Powerball Jackpot:
$37 million
Sales close at 7 p.m.

For Monday, April 24, 2023

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

19-21-55-66-68—**Powerball 3**
Jackpot: $28 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + P-ball	0	—
5	0	—
4 + P-ball	1	$14,808
4	16	$462
3 + P-ball	45	$170
3	1,092	$8
2 + P-ball	915	$9
1 + P-ball	7,350	$5
P-ball only	18,035	$4

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: None

For Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Mega Millions
Mega number is **bold**

8-29-46-47-48—**Mega 12**
Jackpot: $26 million

Fantasy Five: 5-11-15-32-34

Daily Four: 3-9-4-3

Daily Three (midday): 1-9-4

Daily Three (evening): 9-5-8

Daily Derby:
(11) Money Bags
(6) Whirl Win
(1) Gold Rush
Race time: 1:48.36

Results on the internet:
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Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)
LIFEGUARD VEHICLE SPONSORSHIP
ALTERNATIVE FUEL SOLUTIONS

The Los Angeles County Fire Department (Fire Department) is releasing a Request for information (RFI) to obtain information from firms interested in entering into a Vehicle Sponsorship Agreement with the Fire Department.

To obtain the RFI documents, please contact Carlos Santiago by email at Carlos.Santiago@fire.lacounty.gov.

The submission deadline is May 15, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. (PST) to: Carlos.Santiago@fire.lacounty.gov
CN995424
23MA07ADM Apr 23,24,25,26,27, 2023

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Legal Notices

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER *(Número del Caso):*
22CHLC23088

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT *(AVISO AL DEMANDADO)*: SERGE MERGELIAN, YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF *(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE)*: WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (*www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp*), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (*www.lawhelpcalifornia.org*), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (*www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp*), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! *Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.*

*Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (*www.sucorte.ca.gov*), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.*

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 9425 Penfield Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is *(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es)*: HARLAN M. REESE, ESQ. (CA BAR NO.: 118226), REESE LAW GROUP, 3168 Lionshead Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92010; 760/842-5850 (File No. 568363)
DATE *(Fecha)*: 10/19/2022
SHERRI R. CARTER EXECUTIVE OFFICER / CLERK OF COURT, Clerk *(Secretario)*, by L.LACANLALE, Deputy *(Adjunto)*
(SEAL)
4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10/23
CNS-3691976#

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Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

In connection with litigation regarding the real property located at 25 Beverly Park Circle, Beverly Hills, California 90210 (legal description: Parcel 1: Lot 8 of Tract No. 38057, in the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, State of California, as per Map recorded in Book 1117 Pages 11 to 26 inclusive of Maps, in the Office of the County Recorder of said County. Except therefrom all oil, gas, minerals and other hydrocarbon substances including all rights incidental to such ownership, now or at any time hereafter situated in and under any portion of the lot lying below a depth of 500 feet measured vertically from the surface of the lot lying below a depth of 500 feet measured vertically from the surface of the lot together with the right to explore for, extract and produce the same and to enter subsurface of any portion of the lot, all for said purposes, without any right to enter upon the surface of said lot or into any portion of the subsurface thereof, lying above a depth of 500 feet, measured vertically from the surface of the lot. Parcel 2: A non-exclusive easement appurtenant to said Lot 8 above for ingress and egress over and across portions of said land defined and delineated as "private streets" on the Map of Tract No. 38057. Except that portion lying within Parcel 1. APN: 4386-025-010), the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles ordered service by publication upon unknown DOE cross-defendants and the text of the Summons to be published is as follows:

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Numero del Caso):
21SMCV00182

NOTICE TO CROSS-DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL CONTRA-DEMANDADO):
KEYWAY PRIDE LIMITED, LLC, a limited liability company; Kimora Lee Simmons, an individual; Tim Leissner, an individual; DOES 1 through 25, inclusive; and DOES 26-100, including all persons unknown, claiming any legal or equitable right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the property described in the complaint adverse to Defendant/Cross-Complainant's title, or any cloud upon Defendant/Cross-Complainant's title thereto, inclusive.
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY CROSS-COMPLAINANT:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL CONTRADEMANDANTE):
25 Beverly Park Circle Propco, LLC, a limited liability company

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the cross-complainant. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por esqrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al contrademandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), o oniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
Los Angeles Superior Court
Beverly Hills Courthouse
9355 Burton Way
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiffs attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abodgado, es):
Eric V. Rowen Matthew R. Gershman
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
1840 Century Park East, Suite 1900
Los Angeles, CA 90067-2121
(310) 586-7700

Date: 10/24/2022

Sherri R. Carter — Executive Officer/ Clerk of the Court (Secretario)
C. Coleman — Deputy (Adjunto)

Published in the Los Angeles Times 4/26/2023; 5/3/2023; 5/10/2023; 5/17/2023

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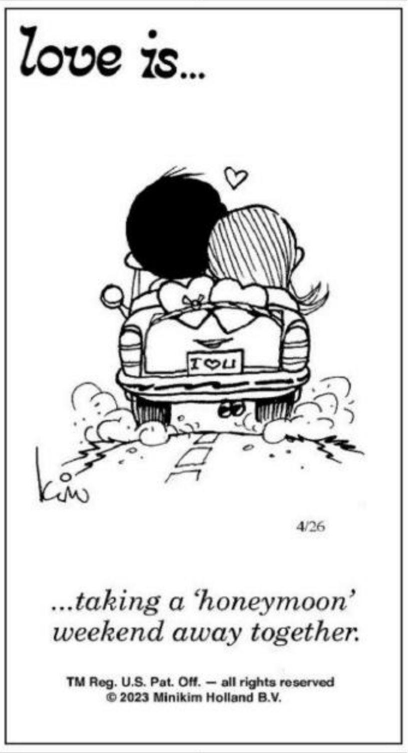

...taking a 'honeymoon' weekend away together.

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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CEOGK
NLCAA
DTARSN
LAHXEE

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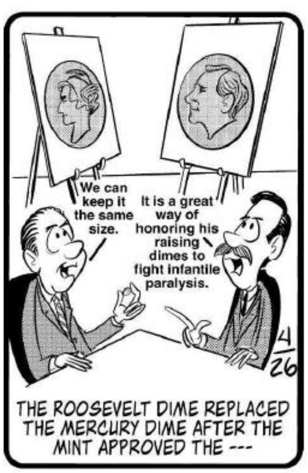
We can keep it the same size.
It is a great way of honoring his raising dimes to fight infantile paralysis.
4/26

THE ROOSEVELT DIME REPLACED THE MERCURY DIME AFTER THE MINT APPROVED THE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SUSHI TWINE PARODY GROUND
Answer: The moody staircase was having its — UPS AND DOWNS

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IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

DEPUTY DIST. ATTY. Jonathan Hatami, with relatives of Anthony Avalos, speaks after the sentencing. "There is a small sense of justice," he said, while also taking a shot at his boss, Dist. Atty. George Gascón.

Life terms in Avalos killing

[**Sentencing,** from B1]
Tuesday's emotional sentencing hearing before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Sam Ohta ordered Barron and Leiva jailed for life. Barron wept quietly as a steady stream of relatives spoke, detailing in painstaking detail how her actions not only ended the life of Anthony in her Lancaster home, but also destroyed all those who loved him.

"I am finally free from all the torture and abuse," said Anthony's sister, Destiny, who was unable at first to testify, as she cried in court. "If I would have known this would end with me losing a brother … I would do it all over again with just one difference: that it would be me, not Anthony."

The striking testimony left the usually inscrutable Barron in tears, wiping her face as she was repeatedly called a "monster" by those who once called her a sister or mother.

"Because of her actions I can no longer claim her as my family. In my mind, she is dead to me," said Dana B., a cousin of Anthony.

Dana spoke of how the killing shook her mother and her father, who is Barron's brother.

"I lost my father," she said. "I've seen him try to care for my mom and everything else in the house when he was also suffering in silence."

While family members said they will live forever with the pain of Anthony's death and hatred toward his killers, Los Angeles County Deputy Dist. Atty. Jonathan Hatami said he hoped that the sentence would provide some closure for the family.

"There is a small sense of justice," Hatami said at a press conference after the sentencing.

ANTHONY AVALOS was 10 when he was killed in June 2018 in his Lancaster home.

Hatami also used the press conference to take a shot at his boss, Dist. Atty. George Gascón, who he said refused to meet with the family. Hatami is running against Gascón for district attorney.

"He wouldn't listen to the family. He wouldn't even look at the facts or the evidence in this case," said Hatami, who has been a fierce critic of the progressive district attorney.

Tiffiny Blacknell, director of communications at the district attorney's office, said Gascón was pleased with the outcome of the sentencing.

"This moment should be spent in deep contemplation on how to prevent such a horror from occurring again instead of engaging in political rhetoric that doesn't advance the safety of children," Blacknell said.

The sentencing left family members trying to reconcile Barron, whom they once knew as a friend and confidant, with the murderer she became.

"It's still mind-blowing to me," said Barron's brother, David. "Why are we here?"

David Barron's wife, Maria, recalled a conversation with Heather Barron years earlier, back when she considered her sister-in-law to be her best friend. It was after the murder of another Antelope Valley child, Gabriel Fernandez, an 8-year-old killed by his mother, Pearl Fernandez, and her boyfriend, Isauro Aguirre, in 2013.

"You once told me that you would never be like Pearl Fernandez," Maria Barron recalled. "Guess what? You're just like her, even worse."

Worker shot dead by toolbox thief in Bay Area store

By Nathan Solis

A 26-year-old Home Depot employee in Pleasanton was fatally shot last week when he confronted a shoplifter inside the home improvement store, according to Alameda County officials.

Blake Mohs, 26, who worked as a loss-prevention employee at the store, was shot in the chest April 18 as he tried to stop a woman from stealing a large yellow toolbox, the Pleasanton Police Department said.

After shooting Mohs at point-blank range, the woman — later identified by authorities as 32-year-old Benicia Knapps — took the toolbox and ran outside to a waiting red Nissan Pathfinder occupied by a male driver and the woman's small child, according to police.

The vehicle sped off, and a police pursuit ensued, with Knapps appearing to hold onto her 1-year-old in the passenger seat as the driver — identified as David Guillory, 31 — headed against traffic, with the passenger door swinging open at one point, police said.

Knapps and Guillory were arrested a short time later in Oakland by Alameda County sheriff's deputies.

The gun used in the shooting was recovered at a nearby intersection, authorities said.

Officers provided aid to Mohs when they arrived at the Home Depot store, authorities said. He was taken to a hospital, where he died from his injuries.

On Thursday, the Alameda County district attorney's office charged Knapps with murder, robbery, abandonment and neglect of children, and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Guillory was charged with felony reckless evading, evading an officer by driving on the opposite side of the street, resisting arrest, and abandonment and neglect of children, according to prosecutors.

Mohs was a Tri-Valley resident who worked in youth programs and planned to get married this summer, authorities said. He is survived by his parents, brother and fiancee.

Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown called Mohs' death the result of a "senseless shooting."

"Through his service to Tri-Valley organizations, Blake was a model for others," Brown said in a statement. "To have a life cut short is heartbreaking and infuriating."

Off-duty sheriff's deputy dies in crash

By Noah Goldberg

A Riverside County sheriff's deputy was killed Monday in an off-duty crash while riding a motorcycle in Riverside, according to authorities.

Deputy Andrew Davidson, 23, was riding a Yamaha motorcycle around 8:30 a.m. when the crash occurred on Van Buren Boulevard near Garfield Street, the Riverside Police Department posted on Facebook. A Toyota Camry driven by a 66-year-old man collided with Davidson's motorcycle, according to police.

Davidson was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead, police said.

The man in the sedan was taken to a hospital for minor injuries, according to police.

Davidson joined the Sheriff's Department in March 2022 and was assigned to the Perris station, police said.

"We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Deputy Davidson," the Sheriff's Department posted on Twitter.

Davidson is at least the third Riverside County deputy to have died since December.

Isaiah Cordero, 32, was fatally shot on Dec. 29 during a traffic stop in Jurupa Valley. Two weeks later, Darnell Calhoun, 30, was fatally shot while responding to a call involving domestic violence and a child custody matter near Lake Elsinore.

Gray whale spends record amount of time in S.F. Bay

[**Whale,** from B1]
San Francisco Bay gets one or two gray whales that stay for a day or two, according to Keener. The whales breed in lagoons in Mexico and migrate to Alaska to feed, sometimes stopping in the bay along the way.

The waters in the San Francisco Bay are calm, and whales sometimes linger to eat and rest.

Beginning in 2019, more gray whales were seen stopping in the bay, and some washed up along the coast, prompting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to declare an "unusual mortality event."

So far this migration season, eight gray whales and one humpback whale have been spotted in the bay, raising concerns among scientists who fear the animals could be struck by ships amid heavy maritime traffic between Oakland and San Francisco.

"We've got a complex story where whales are coming in the bay, which is a place of refuge for them, but that creates conservation concerns for us, with it being a busy port and the potential for ship strikes," Kenner said. "That's why we're tracking all these whales in the bay and trying to keep them safe."

A 35-foot gray washed up March 23 on Bolinas Beach, east of Duxbury Point, in Marin County — the first whale fatality in the region this year.

Scientists with the Marine Mammal Center conducted a necropsy and concluded that the whale probably died of injuries after crashing into a boat.

Humpbacks began coming to the bay in 2016, as warming oceans resulted in less krill, the animals' chief food source, which thrive in cold waters. Instead, the whales began coming closer to the coast to feed on anchovies.

"Over the decade, the bay has been really cleaned up," Keener said. "I've seen no whales using the bay, and now we see humpbacks come in every year."

Keener encouraged residents to report any marine mammals they spot.

"We can't always keep our eyes on the water," he said. "It's a big area."

PILAR RODRIGUEZ Marine Mammal Center

A GRAY WHALE is seen Monday after 75 days in the San Francisco Bay. Most stay for a day or two.

'We're down to our final hill'

[**Snow,** from B1]
Snow Summit is not the only California mountain still offering skiing and snowboarding well into spring; Mammoth Mountain announced last month that its ski operations would operate through at least July with existing snow.

Mammoth officials told The Times it had never before announced such a long extension so early in the season.

"I've been up here eight years now … and we've never been open this late for as long as I worked here," Kanton noted.

Last year, Bear Mountain closed on April 10, nearly two weeks earlier than this year, according to Snowpak.com, a snow resort booking site.

The conditions added up to a banner year for the resort even with intense snowfall preventing skiers and snowboarders from accessing the slopes for days at a time.

Alterra Mountain Co., which owns Big Bear Mountain Resort and Mammoth Mountain, does not disclose attendance numbers, but Kanton said it was "a very strong season."

"I think we're on track to have one of our strongest seasons over the last 10 years," he noted. "And that's not even including the business volume at Snow Valley since that property didn't come into our management until mid-January."

And the snow is hanging around, for now.

"There's still decent coverage," Kanton said, noting that all of the trails at Snow Summit are still open. "But the snow is getting softer."

Temperatures reached nearly 70 degrees Monday in Big Bear, making snowmelt inevitable.

"Once it gets going, it'll go pretty quickly," Kanton said.

Now, the resorts are actually hoping for the snow to dissipate as spring kicks into gear and the ski slopes are set to transition to mountain biking trails.

"This is kind of a weird, different situation than we're used to," Kanton said. "We're usually trying to hold on to the snow as long as we can. Now we're kind of flipping that switch, like, OK, when can we start getting ready for summer?"

Obituaries

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Jay S. Bulmash

Mount Sinai Mem Parks
H. Hills 800-600-0076
mountsinaiparks.org

Dr. James "Jim" Sueo Fukuda

February 15, 1931 - March 29, 2023

92-year-old, Los Angeles-born, long-time resident of Orange, peacefully passed away at Ivy Park at Laguna Woods on March 29, 2023. He was predeceased by his loving family, wife of over 50 years, Kimi, and eldest daughter, Kelly Akemi; He is survived by his loving family; daughter, Kay Aiko (Brent) Yamasaki; sons, Kevin Akira (Nirmal Merchant) Fukuda, Kenneth Atsuo (Jeanette) Fukuda, Kristopher Yukio (Susan) Fukuda; also survived by grandchildren, Aki, Ryan, and Emi Yamasaki, and Maddy, Trevor, Miles, and Malia Fukuda, along with siblings, and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral Service will be held at Fukui "Chapel in the Garden" on Saturday, April 29 at 10:00a.m., Reverend Ken Nagata officiating.

www.fukuimortuary.com
(213)626-0441

Molly Marlene "Molls" Klein

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Los Angeles Times

Mary W. Whitaker

November 3, 1921 - April 6, 2023

Mary W. Whitaker, a devoted wife and mother, passed away on April 6, 2023, at her home in West Los Angeles, California. She was born on November 3, 1921, in Texarkana, Arkansas, to Leonard Williams and Annie B. (Smith) Williams. Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Roger E. Whitaker, and her parents, as well as her only brother, Willie Lee Williams.

Mary was a dedicated homemaker who took great pride in maintaining her home over the years. She enjoyed spending time in her yard, tending to her beloved roses, and was an accomplished seamstress. Mary was also known for her cooking skills, particularly her cheesecakes.

Mary is survived by her six children, George, Barbara, Roger Lee (Inetha), Robert Lee (Karen), Leonard, and Zenobia Whitaker Woods (Vernon).

George Whitaker, Barbara Neal, and her oldest granddaughter Molly Ann Neal were by her side, providing comfort as she passed away. Mary's other children and grandchildren visited with her prior to her death, expressing their love and devotion.

Mary will be deeply missed by her family and friends, but her memory will continue to live on in their hearts.

GLORIA J. ZANOTTI

Gloria Zanotti was born Gloria Meaglia in Los Angeles on March 11, 1929. She grew up with her older brother Richard in the largely Italian enclave of Cypress Park, graduating from Franklin High School. She married Mario Zanotti in 1948, a short time after her father Sam, one of the founders of the American Foundry, passed away. She and Mario moved to a new home in San Gabriel in 1954 where she raised three children and also took care of her mother until her passing in 1993. She and Mario spent nearly 60 years together until his passing in 2008. She was a native Angelino that devoted herself to family, kept in close touch with extended family and devoted considerable time to the Societa' Bosconerese, a group centered mainly around immigrants from the small town of Bosconero in northern Piedmont, Italy. The club also supported an orphanage there. She is survived by her three children, Steve Zanotti, Craig Zanotti, and Marion Seletos, seven grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. Ever gracious, always one to pitch in and help whenever needed, she will be missed by all who knew her. She was 94 at the time of passing. The picture is from her 90th birthday.

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THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Warming up: Marine air will keep temperatures from rising above average along the coast today, where the morning will start with clouds. Any clouds farther inland will be brief as building high pressure allows sun and a warmer afternoon. Light onshore flow will keep it from getting too warm near the coast Thursday and Friday, while temperatures continue to climb inland.

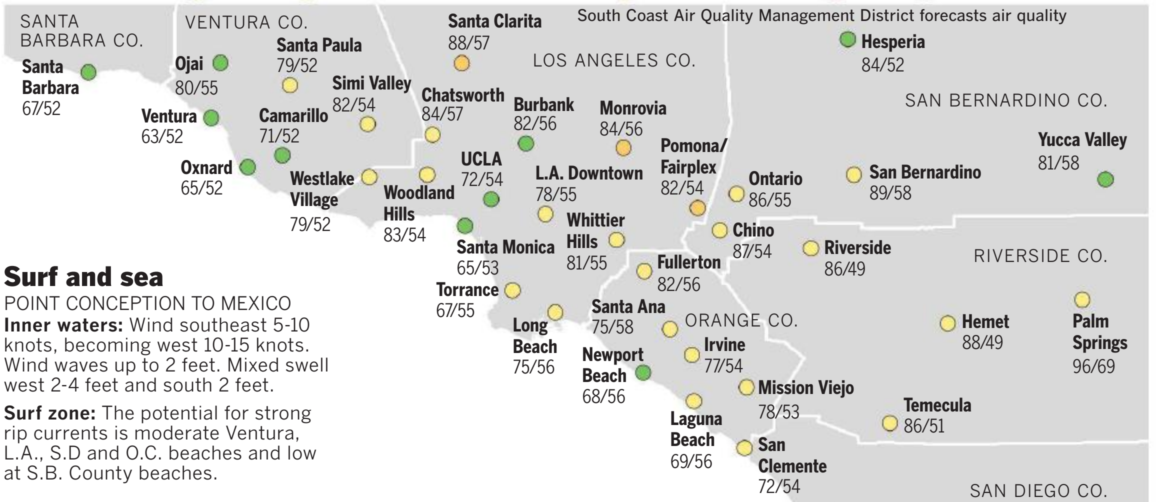
5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	78|55		84|57		65|53		63|31		96|69	
	Partly sunny		Mostly sunny; warm		Partly sunny		Mostly sunny		Sunny and hot	
Thursday	Partly sunny	77/56	Mostly sunny	84/58	Partly sunny	66/55	Mostly sunny	68/39	Sunny; hot	99/70
Friday	Partly sunny	79/57	Mostly sunny	83/58	Partly sunny	68/57	Mostly sunny	68/43	Very hot	100/76
Saturday	Mostly sunny	88/62	Very warm	90/65	Partly sunny	75/59	Mostly sunny	70/36	Very hot	106/75
Sunday	Partly sunny	83/59	Partly sunny	85/58	Partly sunny	71/59	Partly sunny	70/41	Hot	104/72

Air quality

● Good ● Moderate Unhealthful for: ● Sensitive people ● All ○ Not Available



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind southeast 5-10 knots, becoming west 10-15 knots. Wind waves up to 2 feet. Mixed swell west 2-4 feet and south 2 feet.

Surf zone: The potential for strong rip currents is moderate Ventura, L.A., S.D and O.C. beaches and low at S.B. County beaches.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	1-3'	14 sec	SW	55
Ventura	2-4'	14 sec	SW	55
Los Angeles	2-4'	14 sec	SSW	62
Orange	2-4'	14 sec	SSW	62
San Diego	2-4'	14 sec	SSW	62

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	1:06a	4.4 Hi	9:53a	0.4 Lo
	------	Hi	------	Lo
Thu.	2:35a	4.0 Hi	11:08a	0.5 Lo
	7:03p	3.6 Hi	11:25p	3.1 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 25	Phoenix, 25
Los Angeles, 25	San Francisco, 25

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:10a/7:33p	6:09a/7:31p	6:13a/7:37p
Moon	11:05a/1:23a	11:04a/1:22a	11:08a/1:28a

April 27
May 5
May 12
May 19

Almanac

Tuesday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	71/59	73/59	63/54
Normal high/low	73/56	75/55	68/49
High/low a year ago	89/59	89/55	81/57
Record high/date	94/1898	93/2004	87/1965
Record low/date	42/1894	50/2009	40/1967

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	27.48	20.53	25.42
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	12.16	6.46	11.33
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	13.63	11.25	15.50
Humidity (high/low)	83/58	83/58	100/74

California cities

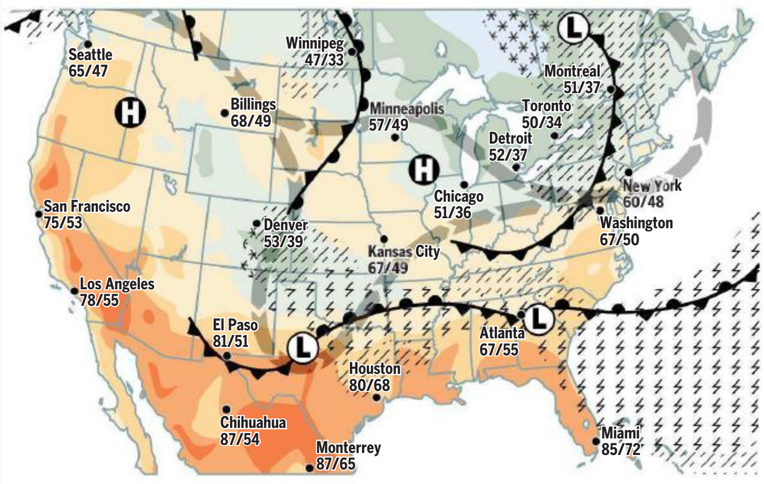
	Tuesday			Today		Thursday	
City	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Anaheim	76	59	--	81	53	80	55
Avalon/Catalina	64	52	--	72	59	72	55
Bakersfield	84	55	--	88	62	92	64
Barstow	87	62	--	87	60	92	65
Big Bear Lake	66	39	--	63	31	68	39
Bishop	79	52	--	81	46	86	47
Burbank	72	56	--	82	56	83	58
Camarillo	67	53	--	71	52	72	54
Chatsworth	xx	xx	--	84	57	84	59
Chino	75	55	--	87	54	87	54
Compton	68	59	--	76	55	78	57
Dana Point	62	58	--	69	54	68	57
Death Valley	98	76	--	95	78	101	80
Del Mar	63	57	--	63	56	66	57
Escondido	73	58	--	79	51	80	51
Eureka	58	46	--	63	49	62	50
Fallbrook	69	58	--	79	50	79	52
Fresno	84	54	--	90	60	93	61
Fullerton	73	59	--	82	56	80	56
Hemet	77	52	--	88	49	89	52
Hesperia	81	45	--	84	52	88	55
Huntington Beach	69	60	--	68	55	68	57
Idyllwild	72	43	--	71	52	75	55
Irvine	70	59	--	77	54	77	56
L.A. D'ntown/USC	71	59	--	78	55	77	56
L.A. Int'l. Airport	67	57	--	67	55	69	56
Laguna Beach	68	59	--	69	56	68	58
Lancaster	86	59	--	87	53	89	59
Long Beach	68	59	--	75	56	75	56
Mammoth Lakes	60	31	--	65	35	68	40
Mission Viejo	67	54	--	78	53	79	56
Monrovia	72	56	--	84	56	85	58
Monterey	60	44	--	69	51	72	52
Mt. Wilson	71	49	--	58	52	60	53
Needles	89	66	--	92	65	97	69
Newport Beach	63	59	--	68	56	67	57
Northridge	77	55	--	84	54	83	55
Oakland	73	46	--	78	51	79	54
Oceanside	66	60	--	75	55	75	55
Ojai	71	53	--	80	55	80	54
Ontario	74	55	--	86	55	85	55
Palm Springs	98	66	--	96	69	99	70
Pasadena	60	57	--	81	55	82	59
Paso Robles	82	41	--	87	48	88	50
Redding	87	60	--	89	58	92	58
Riverside	73	51	--	86	49	87	50
Sacramento	86	49	--	88	52	89	55
San Bernardino	75	56	--	89	58	91	58
San Diego	67	59	--	70	58	71	60
San Francisco	77	48	--	75	53	77	54
San Gabriel	xx	xx	--	82	56	83	57
San Jose	79	48	--	84	56	86	58
San Luis Obispo	66	46	--	73	50	74	50
Santa Ana	68	61	--	75	58	76	60
Santa Barbara	66	53	--	67	52	68	53
Santa Clarita	77	50	--	88	57	88	55
Santa Monica Pier	65	56	--	65	53	66	55
Santa Paula	69	52	--	79	52	80	53
Santa Rosa	84	43	--	83	47	85	46
Simi Valley	70	50	--	82	54	82	51
Tahoe Valley	58	28	--	64	34	68	37
Temecula	75	55	--	86	51	85	52
Thousand Oaks	65	51	--	78	52	77	51
Torrance	73	59	--	67	55	67	56
UCLA	66	56	--	72	54	73	55
Van Nuys	77	57	--	86	56	86	58
Ventura	63	54	--	63	52	65	52
Whittier Hills	74	59	--	81	55	83	56
Woodland Hills	78	51	--	83	54	83	54
Wrightwood	66	46	--	68	49	71	50
Yorba Linda	73	57	--	82	53	81	52
Yosemite Valley	73	43	--	77	48	80	45

Today in North America

Severe thunderstorms: Showers and thunderstorms will stretch from the southern Plains through the Southeast and along the east coast of Florida. The highest risk for severe thunderstorms, including isolated tornadoes, will be across north-central Texas.

Pressure: Ⓛ Low Ⓗ High Warm Front Cold Front Jet Stream Trough

Temps -0 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100+ Rain T-storm Snow Ice



U.S. cities

TUESDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 98 in Death Valley, Calif. **Low** 13 in Brimson, Minn.

	Tuesday			Today		
City	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	54	33	Tr	61	37	Ts
Albuquerque	74	48	.09	66	42	Pc
Anchorage	41	28	--	46	33	Cy
Aspen	42	23	.43	52	29	Sn
Atlanta	74	47	--	67	55	Ts
Austin	75	59	.23	80	63	Ts
Baltimore	61	37	--	65	48	Ts
Boise	65	37	--	71	46	Su
Boston	57	46	--	51	43	Pc
Buffalo	49	37	.11	50	35	Sh
Burlington, Vt.	55	40	Tr	56	40	Sh
Charleston, S.C.	75	56	Tr	74	57	Cy
Charlotte	68	47	.01	70	54	Cy
Chicago	46	37	.17	51	36	Su
Cincinnati	62	35	.01	61	40	Pc
Cleveland	52	32	.02	50	34	Pc
Columbia, S.C.	73	52	--	71	54	Cy
Columbus	57	29	--	59	36	Pc
Dallas/Ft.Worth	73	59	.16	69	58	Ts
Denver	64	38	.17	53	39	Sn
Detroit	44	30	.11	52	37	Pc
El Paso	86	64	--	81	51	Su
Eugene	66	38	--	76	48	Su
Fort Myers	87	70	.17	87	69	Pc
Hartford	62	36	--	63	44	Pc
Honolulu	85	72	.03	82	71	Sh
Houston	78	60	Tr	80	68	Cy
Indianapolis	58	38	Tr	59	38	Pc
Jacksonville, Fla.	82	62	.01	78	61	Ts
Kansas City	67	42	--	67	49	Pc
Knoxville	67	38	--	67	50	Sh
Las Vegas	80	67	--	84	64	Su
Louisville	68	40	--	67	47	Pc
Medford	77	39	--	82	50	Su
Memphis	69	50	--	67	56	Ts
Miami	87	69	.24	85	72	Ts
Milwaukee	45	37	.15	46	35	Su
Minneapolis	52	32	--	57	49	Su
Nashville	70	41	--	69	54	Sh
New Orleans	79	63	--	82	70	Ts
New York	60	46	--	60	48	Pc
Norfolk	61	45	--	67	53	Cy
Oklahoma City	54	47	.31	53	48	R
Omaha	64	41	--	67	44	Pc
Orlando	87	66	.04	82	66	Ts
Philadelphia	58	42	--	62	47	Pc
Phoenix	92	65	--	90	65	Su
Pittsburgh	55	29	Tr	58	34	Pc
Portland, Ore.	68	43	Tr	74	47	Su
Providence	59	40	Tr	58	42	Pc
Raleigh/Durham	69	43	.03	69	50	Cy
Reno	68	41	--	75	45	Su
Richmond	64	41	--	72	51	Cy
St. Louis	72	50	--	65	47	Pc
Salt Lake City	51	40	.11	64	46	Su
Seattle	59	44	--	65	47	Pc
Tampa	85	69	--	87	70	Cy
Tucson	90	62	--	86	56	Su
Tulsa	55	49	.42	58	50	R
Washington, D.C.	62	44	--	67	50	Ts
Wichita	53	47	.14	55	47	R

World

City	Tuesday Hi	Tuesday Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Today Lo	Sky
Acapulco	87	74	--	87	73	Pc
Amsterdam	50	41	.46	50	34	Cy
Athens	74	55	--	72	56	Ts
Bangkok	102	81	.54	89	79	Ts
Barcelona	72	57	--	68	57	Pc
Berlin	55	45	--	50	37	Pc
Cabo San Lucas	86	65	--	81	62	Su
Cairo	85	63	--	90	65	Su
Dubai	94	79	--	92	76	Su
Dublin	52	32	.01	53	44	Pc
Havana	86	69	--	90	70	Pc
Ho Chi Minh City	99	81	--	97	82	Ts
Hong Kong	75	73	.14	77	71	Cy
Istanbul	68	51	.33	63	53	R
Jerusalem	70	47	--	74	54	Su
Johannesburg	75	53	--	77	57	Su
Kuala Lumpur	93	77	.27	92	76	Ts
Lima	82	71	--	80	71	Cy
London	52	36	--	54	43	Pc
Madrid	84	52	--	85	51	Su
Mecca	103	74	--	104	77	Su
Mexico City	84	56	--	83	56	Hz
Montreal	52	37	.14	51	37	Sh
Moscow	66	49	.07	60	45	R
Mumbai	90	81	--	91	80	Hz
New Delhi	93	70	--	97	75	Hz
Paris	57	45	--	56	45	Cy
Prague	54	37	.03	50	33	Pc
Rome	68	55	--	69	48	Pc
Seoul	55	45	.18	59	42	Pc
Singapore	88	79	.08	90	78	Ts
Taipei City	72	66	.33	69	63	Sh
Tokyo	63	50	.45	68	55	R
Vancouver	57	46	.01	57	43	Cy
Vienna	61	48	.09	56	38	Pc

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Tuesday's readings as of 5 p.m.

Forecasts by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023

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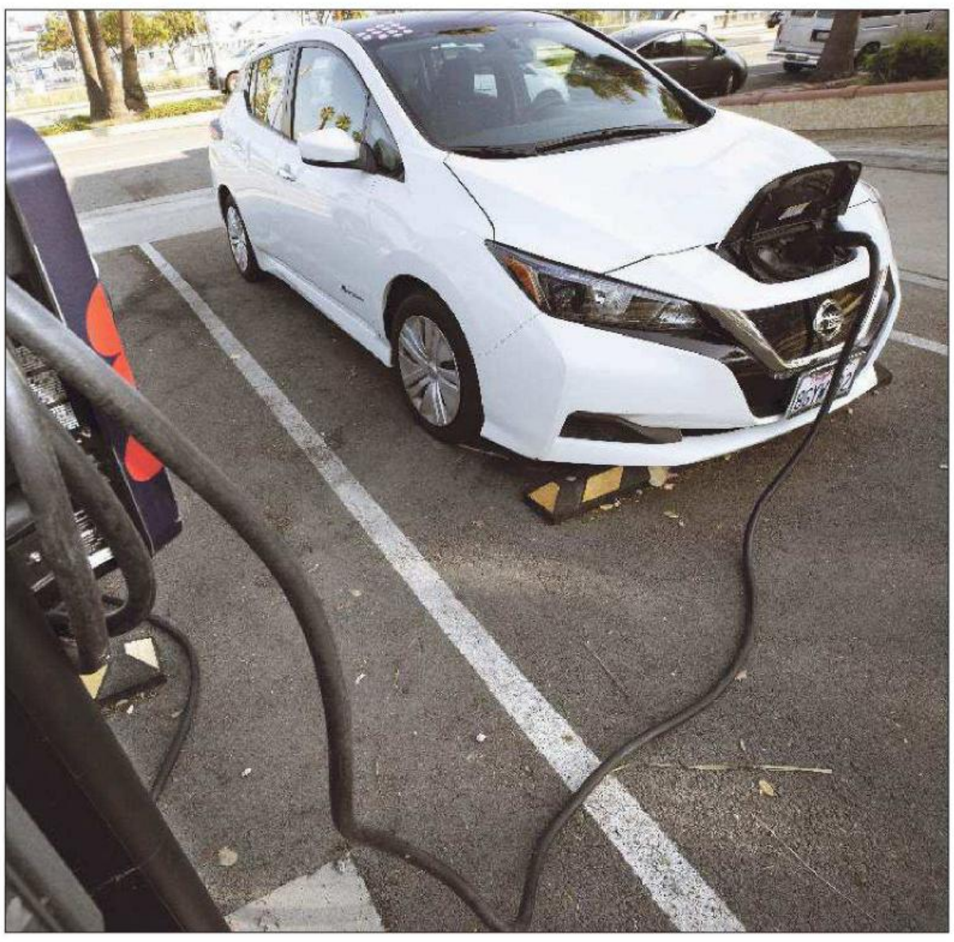
Zero-emission cars are a hit in state

Boom in sales of new vehicles puts California ahead of schedule for EVs.

By Rob Nikolewski


Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

ZERO-EMISSION vehicle sales in California rose in the past two years, thanks to market conditions and policy, an analyst says. Above, a car charges in San Pedro.

Due largely to a sharp increase in sales since 2021, California has passed its target of putting 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles on Golden State roads a couple of years ahead of schedule.

According to figures from the California Energy Commission, 1.52 million electric vehicles, or EVs, have been purchased through the first quarter of this year. Under the state's definition, EVs are comprised of battery-electric, plug-in hybrids and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

"For the last decade, California has had a goal to reach 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles by 2025," energy commission chair David Hochschild said in a statement. "Now this goal has been surpassed nearly two years early, which is an important milestone on the journey to finally bringing clean electric transportation mainstream."

Zero-emission sales in California were flat from 2018 to 2020 but soared in the past two years. Nearly half (720,150) of the 1.5 million target can be attributed to purchases made in 2021, 2022 and the first quarter of this year.

"I think it's a coming together of having the right policy standards as well as having the right market conditions," said Josh D. Boone, executive director of Veloz, a Sacramento-based public-private nonprofit that supports the move to electric transportation.

Those conditions, Boone said, include automakers offering 115 different makes and models of electric vehicles, government incentive programs, and the building of more charging stations.

"What we know in California, as a leader in the EV market," Boone said, "is that consumers want choice, and they finally have that choice."

Sales of EVs grew in the first three months of this year to account for 21% of California's new car and truck market — compared to 5.6% for the total U.S. market.

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve California's climate goals, state policymakers have made boosting EV sales a statewide priority.

The California Legislature has approved more than $5 billion in investments aimed at the transition.

Then-Gov. Jerry Brown in 2018 set a goal to have 5 million zero-emissions vehicles on California roads by 2030. Two years later, Brown's successor, Gavin Newsom, issued an executive order that bans the sale of new gasoline-powered passenger cars by 2035.

In August, the California Air Resources Board mandated that at least 35% of model year 2026 passenger cars and trucks sold in California be zero-emission. The numbers ramp up each year, reaching 68% in 2030 and 100% by 2035.

The state offers rebates of up to $7,500 for battery-electric and hydrogen-fuel-cell vehicles and up to $6,500 for plug-in hybrids.

On the federal level, subsidies include tax credits up to $7,500 for vehicles that qualify.

"If the state is trying to align consumer sentiment with its political desires, certainly they have reason to celebrate the growing share of EVs and overall fleet sales," said Marc Scribner, senior transportation policy analyst for the Reason Foundation, a libertarian think tank based in Los Angeles that advocates free market solutions to public policy issues.

But especially given the rise in EV sales, "I think subsidizing EV sales is unnecessary," Scribner said. "If consumers increasingly want EVs, that's what they're going to purchase."

Boone said the incentive programs needed to remain in place to lower upfront costs of EVs, encourage their access to Californians living in areas disproportionately affected by air pollution and upend more than a century of internal-combustion-engine dominance.

"It stands to reason," Boone said, "that when we're really trying to make a change that is probably one of the largest transitions since the Industrial Revolution, we need to continue to support this effort as we move through the transition."

California also has a goal to have 250,000 public and privately shared charging stations installed by 2025. The number is now 87,707.

Yosemite Valley campsites to shut over flood threat

By Melanie Mason

Fear of flooding as Yosemite's record-setting snowpack begins to melt has prompted officials to close a large swath of Yosemite National Park to the public starting Friday evening.

The closures will last until at least the following Wednesday and may be extended. Reservations for campgrounds and lodging in the eastern Yosemite Valley will be automatically canceled and refunded, according to a National Park Service notice.

It has been a tumultuous time in the area because of California's extreme winter storms that blanketed the Sierra Nevada in snow. The park was closed for nearly a month from late February to mid-March, during which at least two snowfall records — one for the valley floor, the other in the park's high country — were broken.

The snowpack in the southern Sierra is still measuring 256% of normal. With a heat wave coming this weekend, areas throughout the Central Valley are bracing for the "big melt," with snow likely to dissolve at a dramatically higher rate.

Some areas under threat of flooding have already been inundated once this year, such as the Tulare Lake Basin, where the once-dry lake submerged farmland.

Flows on the Merced River at Pohono Bridge in Yosemite National Park, which currently measure 7.6 feet, are expected to reach the flood stage of 10 feet Friday.

"Snowmelt due to much warmer than normal temperatures are projected to melt snow, leading to rises in creeks, streams, and rivers through the park," tweeted the National Weather Service office in Hanford, Calif., which issued a flood watch for the park effective early Thursday.

Other parts of the park will remain open, park officials said on Instagram, including Wawona, Mariposa Grove (via hike only) and the Crane Flat area.

The closure will be at the El Capitan crossover, and there will be no access, including for pedestrians, east of that road. Officials warn that parking in western Yosemite Valley will be extremely limited, and no services will be available there.

YOSEMITE FALLS

National Park Service

A SNOWY scene at Yosemite Falls in February. The closures will affect eastern Yosemite Valley. A heat wave and a "big melt" are expected this weekend.

FINAL MOCK DRAFT

Teams won’t let elite quarterbacks pass by

SAM FARMER
ON THE NFL

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — There could be four (or more) quarterbacks selected in the opening round of the NFL draft Thursday evening, and this mock has three going in the first five picks.

The big surprise this contemplates is Seattle taking a passer in the No. 5 spot, even though the Seahawks already have a starter in Geno Smith and plenty of other needs. But Florida’s Anthony Richardson is a freakish prospect who could be too enticing for Seahawks coach Pete Carroll to pass up.

Another eye-opener in this mock is Philadelphia selecting Texas running back Bijan Robinson at No. 10, which would go against the grain for the Eagles. They’re always looking to fortify their offensive and defensive lines.

Both Seattle and Philadelphia have two selections in the first round, so that’s two at-bats to address their areas of need.

One way the 2023 NFL draft could unfold:

1. Carolina Panthers — QB Bryce Young, Alabama: The 5-foot-10 Young has all the qualities the Panthers want except ideal height.

2. Houston Texans — Edge Will Anderson, Alabama: The Texans need a quarterback, but if they can’t get Young, they will fill another need.

3. Arizona Cardinals — DT Jalen Carter, Georgia: Carter might be a character risk, but his upside makes him worth the gamble.

4. Indianapolis Colts — QB C.J. Stroud, Ohio State: Maybe the talented Stroud will go against the trend of Ohio State quarterbacks struggling in the pros.

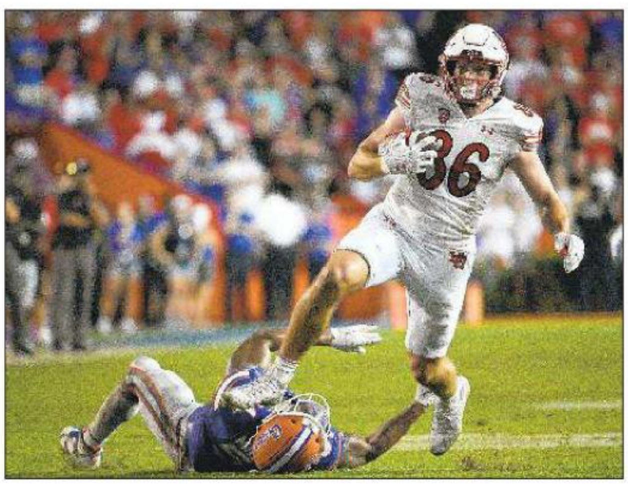
5. Seattle Seahawks — QB Anthony Richardson, Florida: Richardson, raw but super athletic, can learn and mature at the elbow of Smith.

6. Detroit Lions — CB Devon Witherspoon, Illinois: The Lions have only one cornerback, free agent Cam Sutton, signed beyond next season.

7. Las Vegas Raiders — CB Joey Porter Jr., Penn State: The Raiders get a big, physical corner and an NFL legacy player who will help them right away.

8. Atlanta Falcons — Edge Tyree Wilson, Texas Tech: Wilson has huge potential but might not go right at the top because he has yet to face elite tackles with regularity.

RODOLFO GONZALEZ Associated Press



PHELAN M. EBENHACK Associated Press

CHARLES REX ARBOGAST Associated Press

ALABAMA QUARTERBACK Bryce Young, top, has qualities that Carolina likes. The Chargers could grab Utah tight end Dalton Kincaid (86), and Illinois cornerback Devon Witherspoon (31) might motor to Detroit.

9. Chicago Bears — Edge Nolan Smith, Georgia: A pass rusher is the most pressing area of need for the Bears, who need to improve both lines.

10. Philadelphia Eagles — RB Bijan Robinson, Texas: This defies logic. The Eagles have not taken a running back in the first round since 1986. But Robinson is just that good.

11. Tennessee Titans — OT Paris Johnson Jr., Ohio State: Johnson can start off on the right side and ultimately be a replacement for Taylor Lewan, who is already gone.

12. Houston Texans — WR Jaxon Smith-Njigba, Ohio State: This is high for a guy who is primarily a slot receiver, but the Texans really like what he could bring them.

13. Green Bay — WR Jordan Addison, USC: The Packers do for Jordan Love what they didn’t for Aaron Rodgers and immediately get him elite help at wide receiver.

14. New England — CB Christian Gonzalez, Oregon: The ultra-athletic and versatile Gonzalez is just the type of player Bill Belichick covets.

15. New York Jets — T Broderick Jones, Georgia: Now that they have a 39-year-old quarterback, the Jets have to protect him.

16. Washington Commanders — Safety Brian Branch, Alabama: The versatile Branch can play all over the field, and there’s an opening after the Commanders cut Bobby McCain.

17. Pittsburgh Steelers — DE Lukas Van Ness, Iowa: Van Ness could play inside and outside for Pittsburgh and would be formidable when teamed with T.J. Watt and Alex Highsmith.

18. Detroit Lions — OT Peter Skoronski, Northwestern: The Lions have their tackles, but Skoronski could play in the interior until the team has to make a decision on left tackle Taylor Decker.

19. Tampa Bay Buccaneers — QB Will Levis, Kentucky: The Buccaneers need to get a quarterback they can develop. Tennessee’s Hendon Hooker would be interesting here too.

20. Seattle Seahawks — Edge Myles Murphy, Clemson: Murphy on one side, Uchenna Nwosu on the other? That would be a nightmare for opposing quarterbacks.

21. Chargers — TE Dalton Kincaid, Utah: Ideally for Justin Herbert & Co., Kincaid could be his team’s answer to Travis Kelce and George Kittle. OK, that’s a big ask.

22. Baltimore — WR Zay Flowers, Boston College: Flowers instantly helps whoever is at quarterback for the Ravens and can learn from Odell Beckham Jr. and Nelson Agholor.

23. Minnesota — WR Quentin Johnston, Texas Christian: Johnston would ensure that teams couldn’t be so laser-focused on Justin Jefferson.

24. Jacksonville — TE Michael Mayer, Notre Dame: Mayer would be great value here and an insurance policy for a team still working on a deal with Evan Engram.

25. New York Giants — Guard O’Cyrus Torrence, Florida: Torrence could step right in and replace guard Mark Glowinski and would be a solid protector for Daniel Jones.

26. Dallas Cowboys — WR Jalin Hyatt, Tennessee: One of the Cowboys’ needs is a true No. 2 receiver to pair with CeeDee Lamb.

27. Buffalo — MLB Jack Campbell, Iowa: Campbell could be a replacement for Tremaine Edmunds and is a mature leader.

28. Cincinnati — DT Calijah Kancey, Pittsburgh: The Bengals haven’t taken a defensive lineman in the opening round since 2001, but they’re hurting in that area.

29. New Orleans Saints — DT Adetomiwa Adebawore, Northwestern: Two Northwestern guys in the opening round? The Saints need help on their defensive line.

30. Philadelphia Eagles — Edge Keion White, Georgia Tech: The Eagles led the NFL in sacks last season, and look where that got them. They need to restock the shelves.

31. Kansas City Chiefs — OT Darnell Wright, Tennessee: The Chiefs let go of both their tackles this offseason. But if a receiver such as Zay Flowers were around at this spot …

Rams haven’t had first-round pick since 2016 draft

[**Rams,** from B12]

2012 picks: 1 DT Michael Brockers, 2 WR Brian Quick, CB Janoris Jenkins, RB Isaiah Pead, 3 CB Trumaine Johnson, 4 WR Chris Givens, 5 OL Rokevious Watkins, 6 K Greg Zuerlein, 7 LB Aaron Brown, RB Daryl Richardson.

Analysis: Brockers was a productive run-stopper, team leader and wingman for Donald. Zuerlein drilled the game-winning field goal in overtime that sent the Rams to Super Bowl LIII. In 2016, the Rams placed the franchise tag on Johnson and let Jenkins become a free agent. Jenkins was a Pro Bowl selection the next season. But Johnson was arguably the big winner, however, earning $31 million while on the franchise tag two seasons in a row.

2013: 1 WR Tavon Austin, LB Alec Ogletree, 3 S T.J. McDonald, WR Stedman Bailey, 4 OL Barrett Jones, 5 DB Brandon McGee, RB Zac Stacy.

Austin, the eighth overall pick, made the all-rookie team. Before the 2016 season, the Rams shocked many when they gave Austin a four-year extension that included $30 million in guarantees. After McVay took over in 2017, he could not find a way to implement Austin into the offense. Ogletree also made the all-rookie team and became a productive player and team leader.

2014: 1 OL Greg Robinson, DT Aaron Donald, 2 DB Lamarcus Joyner, 3 RB Tre Mason, 4 DB Maurice Alexander, 6 CB E.J. Gaines, QB Garrett Gilbert, 7 OL Mitchell Van Dyk, DB C.B. Bryant, DL Michael Sam, OL Demetrius Rhaney.

Snead selected Robinson 11 picks ahead of Donald, a future Hall of Famer. Robinson struggled mightily before he was traded to the Detroit Lions before the 2017 season. Joyner parlayed a solid 2017 season into a big contract with the then-Oakland Raiders. The Rams made history by selecting Sam, the first openly gay player drafted by an NFL team, but he was released in the final cuts.

2015: 1 RB Todd Gurley, 2 OL Rob Havenstein, 3 OL Jamon Brown, QB Sean Mannion, 4 OL Andrew Donnal, 6 WR Bud Sasser, OL Cody Wichmann, 7 ILB Bryce Hager, DE Martin Ifedi.

Gurley was coming off knee surgery, but Snead took him with the 10th pick. Gurley was the NFL offensive rookie of the year, and two years later he was voted offensive player of the year. Before the 2018 season, the Rams gave Gurley a then-massive extension but a knee issue eventually slowed the two-time All-Pro and he was released before the 2020 season. Havenstein is preparing for his ninth season as a starter.

2016: 1 QB Jared Goff, 4 TE Tyler Higbee, WR Pharoh Cooper, 6 TE Temarrick Hemingway, ILB Josh Forrest, WR Mike Thomas.

JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA Associated Press

DEFENSIVE TACKLE Aaron Donald, left, is one of four All-Pros who were drafted by Les Snead.

The Rams traded up a record 14 spots and selected Goff with the No. 1 pick. Goff endured a tough rookie season — he was inactive for the opener and former coach Jeff Fisher did not play him until the 10th game — but he flourished under McVay. Goff helped lead the Rams to Super Bowl LIII before McVay soured on him late during the 2020 season. The Rams sent Goff, two first-round draft picks and a third-round pick to the Lions for quarterback Matthew Stafford. Higbee is preparing for his seventh season as a starter.

2017: 2 TE Gerald Everett, 3 WR Cooper Kupp, S John Johnson, 4 WR Josh Reynolds, LB Samson Ebukam, 6 DL Tanzel Smart, FB Sam Rogers, 7 DE Ejuan Price.

The top five picks in this draft class played instrumental roles as the Rams built their Super Bowl LIII team. Kupp, the 2021 NFL offensive player of the year, is the only one still on the roster. The Rams let Everett, Johnson, Reynolds and Ebukam become free agents as part of their pursuit of compensation picks.

2018: 3 OL Joe Noteboom, 4 C Brian Allen, DL John Franklin-Myers, 5 LB Micah Kiser, LB Ogbonnia Okoronkwo, 6 RB John Kelly, OL Jamil Demby, DL Sebastian Joseph-Day, DE Trevon Young, 7 LB Travin Howard, DE Justin Lawler.

Noteboom and Allen, who signed extensions before last season, have missed significant stretches during their careers because of season-ending injuries. Franklin-Myers sacked Tom Brady in Super Bowl LIII but was released before the next season and has flourished with the New York Jets. Joseph-Day did not play as a rookie but emerged as an eventual starter before signing as a free agent with the Chargers.

2019: 2 S Taylor Rapp, 3 RB Darrell Henderson, CB David Long, OL Bobby Evans, 4 DL Greg Gaines, 5 OL David Edwards, 7 S Nick Scott, LB Dakota Allen.

No players from this class are still with the team. All except Allen, who was cut before his rookie season, played key roles at times in the Rams’ Super Bowl-winning 2021 season. With Jordan Fuller sidelined last season, Rapp and Scott were starters. The exodus began during the season when the Rams released Henderson and Evans. Scott, Gaines, Rapp, Long and Edwards signed with other teams.

2020: 2 RB Cam Akers, WR Van Jefferson, 3 OLB Terrell Lewis, S Terrell Burgess, 4 TE Brycen Hopkins, 6 S Jordan Fuller, 7 LB Clay Johnston, K Sam Sloman, OL Tremayne Anchrum.

Akers, Jefferson, Hopkins, Fuller and Anchrum are still on the team but it remains to be seen if the Rams give them second contracts. As a rookie, Akers established himself as a potential lead back. He overcame an Achilles injury in 2020 and emerged from a McVay-imposed exile last season to finish with three consecutive 100-yard rushing performances. Jefferson, Fuller and Anchrum are projected starters.

2021: 2 WR Tutu Atwell, 3 LB Ernest Jones, 4 DL Bobby Brown, CB Robert Rochell, WR Jacob Harris, 5 DL Earnest Brown IV, 7 RB Jake Funk, WR Ben Skowronek, OLB Chris Garrett.

Snead and McVay shocked many — and harked memories to Austin — when they selected the diminutive Atwell with the 57th pick. Atwell did not catch a pass during an injury-shortened rookie season. Last season, he showed deep-threat capability. Jones learned from veteran Bobby Wagner and will be the defensive signal-caller this season.

2022: 3 OL Logan Bruss, 4 CB Cobie Durant, 5 RB Kyren Williams, 6 S Quentin Lake, CB Derion Kendrick, 7 OLB Daniel Hardy, S Russ Yeast, OL AJ Arcuri.

Bruss was the Rams’ first pick in the draft — at No.104. He is expected to return from a knee injury that wiped out his rookie season and compete for a starting role. Durant established himself as a possible starter. Kendrick started six games but did not intercept a pass. Williams struggled with injuries most of his first season. Yeast and Lake got playing time late in the season.

Photographs by MATT YORK Associated Press

DEVIN BOOKER of the Suns dunks in front of Mason Plumlee (44), Nicolas Batum (33) and Norman Powell during a 47-point night for the star guard in Game 5. Booker outscored the Clippers in the third quarter 25-24.

Clippers can't extend season

[**Clippers,** from B12]
around the NBA watched Lue's temperament carefully, speculating he might walk away with years left on his contract in part over the unpredictability of his players' availability. Yet asked if he expected to be the coach next season, Lue answered, "Yes, sir."

Lue appeared emotional after the game while describing the long season, and moved by his team's fourth-quarter display of toughness. The Clippers' resolve was unquestioned — but so were their limitations while unable to ultimately match Phoenix's combination of star power and shotmaking.

Led by Norman Powell, who finished with a team-high 27 points, the Clippers had a nine-point advantage at halftime but during the final 8 minutes 8 seconds of the third quarter, the Suns made 14 of 19 shots while the Clippers shot four for 15 and were outscored by 25.

Phoenix became only the fourth team in NBA history to score 50 points in a playoff quarter. Put another way: Suns guard Devin Booker outscored the Clippers all by himself in the quarter 25-24.

"It," teammate Kevin Durant said, "was spiritual."

Durant, who scored 31 points, combined with Booker to make 29 of 46 shots to bury the Clippers by as many as 20 in the fourth quarter. Instead of folding, the Clippers fought to pull within 130-128 with just more than two minutes remaining.

It was their gutsiest effort of the season, sparked again by Russell Westbrook's unrelenting aggression.

"Bringing Russ here really, really saved our season as far as making the playoffs, having this run we had," Lue said.

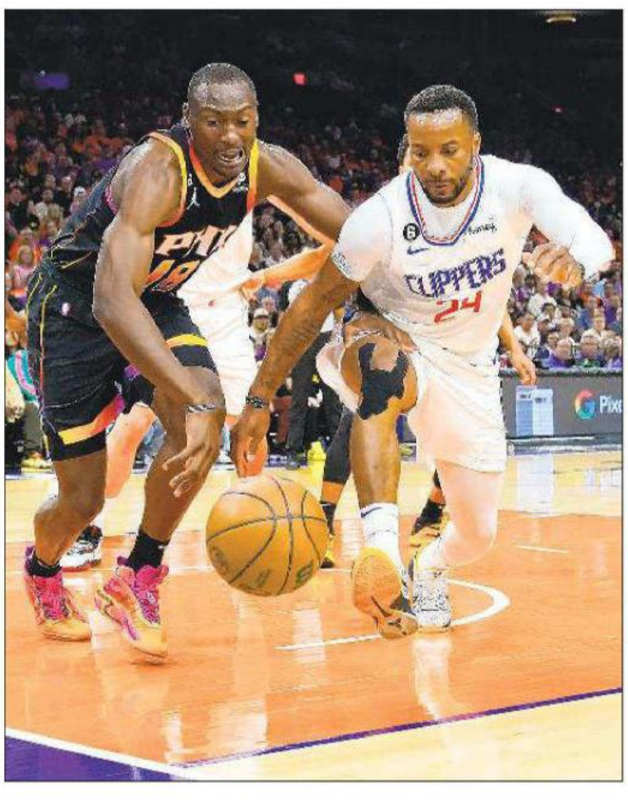
But the rally was undone for a final time, by a missed Westbrook layup with a chance to tie, a missed three-pointer by an open Nicolas Batum that would have given the Clippers the lead with 1:18 to play, and turnovers by Powell with 1:02 left and Westbrook with 51 seconds to play.

Booker scored 47 points for the Suns, who advance to face Denver.

"We had no answer for him," Lue said.

Nor for the injuries that sidelined George and/or Leonard at the end of three consecutive seasons. Before the game George said he still is "very optimistic that our time will come."

A long offseason now begins to answer when that time will come, if ever.



POWELL helped the Clippers rally late against Bismack Biyombo and the Suns, but it wasn't enough.

SUNS 136, CLIPPERS 130

CLIPPERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Gordon	20	1-4	0-0	0-0	3	2	3
Morris Sr.	23	5-11	2-2	1-5	0	0	12
Zubac	23	5-6	6-6	4-10	2	2	16
Powell	38	8-17	8-10	1-2	3	5	27
Westbrook	39	3-18	7-8	1-8	8	4	14
Mann	27	4-9	0-2	2-5	2	2	10
Batum	26	7-10	0-0	1-6	2	1	19
Plumlee	23	6-7	8-9	7-10	3	4	20
Hyland	15	4-13	0-0	0-0	0	1	9
Totals		43-95	31-37	17-46	23	21	130

Shooting: Field goals, 45.3%; free throws, 83.8% Three-point goals: 13-36 (Batum 5-8, Powell 3-7, Mann 2-6, Gordon 1-4, Hyland 1-4, Westbrook 1-6, Morris Sr. 0-1). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 1 (Zubac). Turnovers: 10 (Westbrook 5, Zubac 2, Gordon, Mann, Powell). Steals: 4 (Batum 2, Hyland, Plumlee). Technical Fouls: None.

PHOENIX

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Craig	16	0-1	0-0	0-2	0	3	0
Durant	44	10-19	7-7	0-6	4	3	31
Ayton	35	9-18	3-4	2-11	3	3	21
Booker	41	19-27	5-6	2-8	10	4	47
Paul	37	6-13	0-0	0-5	7	2	15
Okogie	32	4-7	2-2	2-2	3	3	11
Biyombo	12	2-4	4-5	5-8	2	5	8
Shamet	8	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	1	3
Lee	6	0-2	0-0	0-1	0	3	0
Payne	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Totals		51-94	21-24	11-43	31	27	136

Shooting: Field goals, 54.3%; free throws, 87.5% Three-point goals: 13-26 (Durant 4-6, Booker 4-7, Paul 3-6, Shamet 1-2, Okogie 1-3, Lee 0-2). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 4 (Biyombo 3, Durant). Turnovers: 7 (Booker 3, Biyombo, Durant, Lee, Paul). Steals: 7 (Booker 2, Okogie 2, Paul 2, Durant). Technical Fouls: Booker, 2:53 second.

CLIPPERS	30	40	24	36— 130
Phoenix	32	29	50	25— 136

A—17,071. T—2:34.

James has major grip on Grizzlies

[**Plaschke,** from B12]
You probably already know his numbers — 22 points and a career-high 20 rebounds and only one turnover in 45 minutes, a domination that was amazing even to him.

"I've done some pretty cool things in my career. I've never had 20 and 20 before," he said. "So, that's pretty cool, I guess."

You saw the stats, but did you realize the impact? On a night when a sore-hipped Davis barely showed up and Hachimura had his biggest shot blocked and clutch-shooting D'Angelo Russell fouled out, James made every play on his plate to carry them through the fire.

"All of the phenomenal things he's accomplished, he still has that passion, that grit to want to be on top and to want to put his team in a position in the right way to be able to be successful," coach Darvin Ham said. "And that's what you saw."

First, James saved the night with his game-tying layup high off the glass in the final second of regulation against a fiercely defending Jaren Jackson Jr.

Yeah, wouldn't you know it, he practices that exact shot.

"I work on different layup packages. ... Tier 3 is over the square ... so it's not the first time I've done it," James said.

Before that, during a tense and tight fourth-quarter standoff, he was just as dramatic in drawing two back-crushing charges on an out-of-control Ja Morant. Just asking, but what other 38-year-old superstar draws two charges in a weary fourth quarter?

"That's always been me," James said. "Whatever it takes for the team to be successful and just trying to be as great as I can be offensively. But even more important on the defensive end. That was kind of the mindset tonight."

Then there were all those rebounds, including five offensive boards as he battled to keep plays alive for his breathless teammates.

"You just dig deep and understand that you'll be able to sleep at some point. Just not right now," James said. "This is not the time to rest or forget about an assignment. You'll have more than enough time after the game."

Finally, there was the Screamer, a layup with 29 seconds remaining in overtime that gave the Lakers an insurmountable five-point lead. James, who was fouled, finished the play by flexing his giant arms and literally screaming into the faces of nearby fans.

"I've been a part of moments where you know you can kind of get a dagger play or a kill shot," he said. "And I felt like that play right there ... I wouldn't say closed the door. But it sealed it. I was just letting the emotion come out."

The fans, incidentally, screamed right back at him.

They know. LeBron James knows. The Lakers know.

This might not last all spring. This maybe shouldn't last another season. But right now, for however long the Lakers keep playing in these playoffs, they will do so with his fire, through his fight and on his back.

WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

LeBRON JAMES, right, had 22 points, a career-high 20 rebounds and only one turnover in 45 minutes.

PLAYOFF ROUNDUP

Hawks are sorry, Ms. Jackson, but they're still alive

ASSOCIATED PRESS

His team trailing by a point and its season on the brink, Atlanta star Trae Young got all the encouragement he needed in the huddle during a timeout.

"I just had to trust in what I've done my whole life and shoot it with confidence," Young said.

He did, and kept the Hawks' season alive.

Young had 38 points and drained a long, go-ahead three from beyond the top of the key with 1.8 seconds left to cap a late comeback in Boston and beat the Celtics, 119-117 on Tuesday night.

It cut Boston's lead in the first-round playoff series to 3-2 and sent the teams back to Atlanta for Game 6 on Thursday, forcing a Janet Jackson concert at State Farm Arena to be pushed back a day to Friday.

Young had 16 points in a frenetic fourth quarter, giving him 60 fourth-quarter points in the series, and getting support from teammates as the Hawks made a series-best 19 threes.

John Collins added 22 points for Atlanta, which played without Dejounte Murray, who was suspended one game for bumping an official at the end of Game 4.

Jaylen Brown scored 35 points for the Celtics, who were outscored 37-25 in the fourth quarter after they dominated the first three.

The Celtics bobbled their initial inbounds pass and had another chance with five-tenths of a second left, but Jayson Tatum's fading three found only air as time expired.

Denver 112, Minnesota 109: Nikola Jokic had a triple-double and Jamal Murray scored 35 points as the Nuggets eliminated the Timberwolves in Game 5.

Anthony Edwards, who led Minnesota with 29 points, hit the back iron on a 27-foot three-point shot at the buzzer that would have sent the game into overtime.

Jokic overcame a slow start to finish with 28 points, 17 rebounds and 12 assists. The top-seeded Nuggets will face Phoenix next.

Fox: I'm playing

If the decision about whether De'Aaron Fox can play through a broken index finger on his shooting hand is up to the Sacramento star, there is no doubt.

"Right now, there's no ifs, ands or buts," he said Tuesday. "I'm playing."

While the Kings still are calling Fox "doubtful" for Game 5 against Golden State on Wednesday night, all signs are pointing to the point guard giving it a shot with the series tied 2-2.

Fox took part in a noncontact practice with a splint on his left index finger and then spent significant time working on his shooting. He said he had no problems dribbling and passing.

"I'm fine," he said. "I can shoot the ball."

Fox has emerged as a star in his first postseason, averaging 31.5 points, seven assists and six rebounds. His 38 points in a Game 1 win were tied for the second most for a postseason debut.

Rookie of the year

Paolo Banchero was the overwhelming winner of rookie of the year, after the Orlando forward led all rookies in scoring (20 ppg) and helped the Magic improve from 22 wins to 34.

Hawks 119, Celtics 117

ATLANTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Collins	30	9-18	0-0	1-2	1	3	22
Hunter	41	5-11	0-0	0-4	0	3	13
Capela	20	2-5	0-0	1-7	1	0	4
Bogdanovic	34	6-9	3-3	1-6	5	2	18
Young	44	14-33	5-5	0-4	13	4	38
Okongwu	26	4-6	0-0	1-4	3	2	9
Bey	23	4-9	2-2	2-4	0	1	12
Johnson	13	1-5	0-0	0-3	2	1	3
Holiday	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Totals		45-96	10-10	6-34	26	16	119

Shooting: Field goals, 46.9%; free throws, 0.0% Three-point goals: 19-41 (Young 5-13, Collins 4-9, Hunter 3-5, Bogdanovic 3-6, Bey 2-3, Okongwu 1-1, Johnson 1-4). Team Rebounds: 14. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 4 (Bogdanovic 2, Capela, Okongwu). Turnovers: 8 (Young 4, Collins 2, Holiday, Okongwu). Steals: 5 (Young 2, Bogdanovic, Collins, Okongwu). Technical Fouls: None.

BOSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brown	38	15-23	1-5	1-7	5	3	35
Tatum	38	8-21	2-2	1-8	8	2	19
Horford	33	1-5	0-0	1-6	5	2	3
Smart	26	4-8	1-2	2-3	2	4	10
White	31	7-11	2-2	0-5	4	1	18
Williams III	27	5-6	0-1	2-7	2	4	10
Brogdon	25	6-12	1-1	0-3	3	2	14
Hauser	13	3-5	0-0	1-2	2	0	8
B.Griffin	5	0-1	0-0	1-2	0	2	0
Totals		49-92	7-13	9-43	31	20	117

Shooting: Field goals, 53.3%; free throws, 53.8% Three-point goals: 12-38 (Brown 4-7, Hauser 2-4, White 2-5, Horford 1-3, Smart 1-4, Brogdon 1-5, Tatum 1-10). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 9 (Horford 5, White 2, Hauser, Tatum). Turnovers: 9 (Brown 4, Smart 2, Tatum 2, Horford). Steals: 1 (Horford). Technical Fouls: Tatum, 1:39 fourth.

Atlanta	30	28	24	37— 119
Boston	27	39	26	25— 117

A—19,156. T—2:18.

Nuggets 112, Timberwolves 109

MINNESOTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Alexander-Walker	38	5-11	1-1	0-1	3	3	14
Towns	38	9-17	7-9	1-11	3	6	26
Gobert	40	5-6	6-9	4-15	2	6	16
Conley	38	2-7	2-2	1-4	9	3	7
Edwards	39	13-27	3-4	1-8	7	3	29
Prince	22	5-10	0-0	0-0	0	2	13
Rivers	13	1-2	0-0	1-1	0	1	2
Nowell	8	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	3	2
Knight	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		41-81	19-25	8-40	24	27	109

Shooting: Field goals, 50.6%; free throws, 76.0% Three-point goals: 8-33 (Prince 3-7, Alexander-Walker 3-9, Conley 1-4, Towns 1-6, Rivers 0-1, Edwards 0-6). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 4 (Edwards 2, Prince, Towns). Turnovers: 14 (Conley 3, Gobert 3, Prince 3, Towns 3, Edwards, Nowell). Steals: 9 (Conley 2, Gobert 2, Prince 2, Alexander-Walker, Rivers, Towns). Technical Fouls: Gobert, 8:12 third.

DENVER

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Gordon	33	4-9	6-7	2-6	2	5	14
Porter Jr.	38	3-10	0-0	1-10	0	3	8
Jokic	41	8-29	9-10	9-17	12	4	28
Caldwell-Pope	26	3-6	3-3	0-2	1	4	10
Murray	41	12-23	6-6	1-4	5	2	35
Brown	29	3-6	8-8	1-5	2	0	14
Green	18	0-1	0-2	1-1	0	2	0
Braun	9	1-1	0-0	1-2	0	1	3
Totals		34-85	32-36	16-47	22	21	112

Shooting: Field goals, 40.0%; free throws, 88.9% Three-point goals: 12-34 (Murray 5-9, Jokic 3-8, Porter Jr. 2-7, Braun 1-1, Caldwell-Pope 1-4, Brown 0-2, Gordon 0-3). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Jokic 2, Green). Turnovers: 12 (Brown 4, Caldwell-Pope 2, Jokic 2, Murray 2, Braun, Gordon). Steals: 10 (Caldwell-Pope 2, Jokic 2, Porter Jr. 2, Brown, Gordon, Green, Murray). Technical Fouls: None.

Minnesota	29	18	30	32— 109
Denver	22	26	29	35— 112

A—19,691. T—2:39.

PLAYOFF SCHEDULE FIRST ROUND

WESTERN CONFERENCE

1 Denver vs. 8 Minnesota
Nuggets win series 4-1

Gm 1	Denver 109, Minnesota 80
Gm 2	Denver 122, Minnesota 113
Gm 3	Denver 120, Minnesota 111
Gm 4	Minn. 114, Denver 108 (OT)
Gm 5	Denver 112, Minnesota 109

2 Memphis vs. 7 LAKERS
Lakers lead series 3-1

Gm 1	LAKERS 128, Memphis 112
Gm 2	Memphis 103, LAKERS 93
Gm 3	LAKERS 111, Memphis 101
Gm 4	LAKERS 117, Mem. 111 (OT)
Gm 5	Today at Memphis, 4:30
Gm 6	Friday at LAKERS, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Memphis, TBD*

3 Sacramento vs. 6 Golden State
Series tied 2-2

Gm 1	Sacramento 126, G.S. 123
Gm 2	Sacramento 114, G.S. 106
Gm 3	G.S. 114, Sacramento 97
Gm 4	G.S. 126, Sacramento 125
Gm 5	Tonight at Sacramento, 7
Gm 6	Friday at Golden State, TBD
Gm 7	Sunday at Sac., TBD*

4 Phoenix vs. 5 CLIPPERS
Suns win series 4-1

Gm 1	CLIPPERS 115, Phoenix 110
Gm 2	Phnx. 123, CLIPPERS 109
Gm 3	Phoenix 129, CLIPPERS 124
Gm 4	Phnx. 112, CLIPPERS 100
Gm 5	Phnx. 136, CLIPPERS 130

* if necessary

EASTERN CONFERENCE

1 Milwaukee vs. 8 Miami
Heat lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Miami 130, Milwaukee 117
Gm 2	Milwaukee 138, Miami 122
Gm 3	Miami 121, Milwaukee 99
Gm 4	Miami 119 Milwaukee 114
Gm 5	Tonight at Milwaukee, 6:30
Gm 6	Friday at Miami, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Milwaukee, TBD*

2 Boston vs. 7 Atlanta
Celtics lead series 3-2

Gm 1	Boston 112, Atlanta 99
Gm 2	Boston 119, Atlanta 106
Gm 3	Atlanta 130, Boston 122
Gm 4	Boston 129, Atlanta 121
Gm 5	Atlanta 119, Boston 117
Gm 6	Thursday at Atlanta, TBD
Gm 7	Saturday at Boston, TBD*

3 Philadelphia vs. 6 Brooklyn
76ers win series 4-0

Gm 1	Phila. 121, Brooklyn 101
Gm 2	Phila. 96, Brooklyn 84
Gm 3	Phila. 102, Brooklyn 97
Gm 4	Phila. 96, Brooklyn 88

4 Cleveland vs. 5 New York
Knicks lead series 3-1

Gm 1	New York 101, Cleveland 97
Gm 2	Cleveland 107, New York 90
Gm 3	New York 99, Cleveland 79
Gm 4	New York 102, Cleveland 93
Gm 5	Today at Cleveland, 4
Gm 6	Friday at New York, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Cleveland, TBD*

All times PDT, unless noted

BASEBALL

NL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	13	11	.542	–	6-4
Arizona	13	12	.520	½	5-5
San Diego	12	13	.480	1½	5-5
San Francisco	10	13	.435	2½	5-5
Colorado	8	17	.320	5½	3-7
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Pittsburgh	16	8	.667	–	8-2
Milwaukee	15	9	.625	1	5-5
Chicago	13	9	.591	2	6-4
Cincinnati	9	15	.375	7	3-7
St. Louis	9	15	.375	7	3-7
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Atlanta	16	8	.667	–	6-4
New York	14	10	.583	2	6-4
Miami	12	12	.500	4	5-5
Philadelphia	11	13	.458	5	6-4
Washington	8	14	.364	7	4-6

Tuesday's results

DODGERS 8, at Pittsburgh 7
Colorado 5, at Cleveland 1
at Cincinnati 7, Texas 6
Seattle 5, at Philadelphia 3
Washington 5, at New York 0
at Atlanta 7, Miami 4
Detroit 4, at Milwaukee 3
at Chicago 6, San Diego 0
Kansas City 5, at Arizona 4
at San Francisco 5, St. Louis 4

AL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
Texas	14	9	.609	–	6-4
Houston	13	11	.542	1½	7-3
ANGELS	12	12	.500	2½	5-5
Seattle	11	12	.478	3	6-4
Oakland	5	19	.208	9½	2-8
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Minnesota	14	10	.583	–	4-6
Cleveland	11	13	.458	3	3-7
Detroit	9	13	.409	4	6-4
Chicago	7	17	.292	7	2-8
Kansas City	6	18	.250	8	2-8
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Tampa Bay	20	4	.833	–	7-3
Baltimore	15	8	.652	4½	8-2
Toronto	15	9	.625	5	6-4
New York	13	11	.542	7	5-5
Boston	13	12	.520	7½	6-4

Tuesday's results

at ANGELS 5, Oakland 3
Colorado 5, at Cleveland 1
at Cincinnati 7, Texas 6
Seattle 5, at Philadelphia 3
Boston 8, at Baltimore 6
Houston 5, at Tampa Bay 0
at Toronto 7, Chicago 0
at Minnesota 6, New York 2
Detroit 4, at Milwaukee 3
Kansas City 5, at Arizona 4

TODAY'S GAMES

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
Dodgers/Gonsolin (R)	—	—	3:30 p.m.
PIT/Contreras (R)	2-1	4.57	SNLA
WAS/Gore (L)	2-1	3.43	4 p.m.
NY/Senga (R)	3-0	4.29	
MIA/Alcantara (R)	1-2	5.47	4:15 p.m.
ATL/Elder (R)	2-0	1.14	
SD/Wacha (R)	2-1	7.08	4:30 p.m.
CHI/Smyly (L)	2-1	3.13	MLB
STL/Matz (L)	0-3	6.54	6:45 p.m.
SF/DeSclafani (R)	1-1	2.62	MLB*

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
OAK/Medina (R)	__	__	6:30 p.m.
Angels/Sandoval (L)	1-1	3.38	BSW
BOS/Houck (R)	3-0	4.29	10 a.m.
BAL/Wells (R)	0-1	2.70	
CHI/Kopech (R)	0-2	6.97	10 a.m.
TOR/Kikuchi (L)	3-0	3.80	
NY/Germán (R)	1-2	4.50	10 a.m.
MIN/Maeda (R)	0-3	4.15	MLB
HOU/Brown (R)	2-0	3.09	3:30 p.m.
TB/TBD	—	—	

INTERLEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
TEX/Gray (R)	1-1	3.72	9:30 a.m.
CIN/Ashcraft (R)	2-0	1.88	
COL/Márquez (R)	2-1	4.41	10 a.m.
CLE/TBD	—	—	
DET/Lorenzen (R)	0-0	6.00	10:30 a.m.
MIL/Peralta (R)	2-2	3.97	
KC/Yarbrough (L)	0-2	7.62	12:30 p.m.
ARI/Gallen (R)	3-1	2.58	MLB*
SEA/Gilbert (R)	1-1	3.57	3:30 p.m.
PHI/Walker (R)	2-1	3.80	

* joined in progress

ODDS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
DODGERS	-132	at Pittsburgh	+112
at N.Y Mets	-190	Washington	+160
at Atlanta	-142	Miami	+120
at Chicago Cubs	-112	San Diego	-104
St. Louis	-120	at San Francisco	+102

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at ANGELS	-260	Oakland	+215
Boston	-118	at Baltimore	+100
at Toronto	-166	Chicago White Sox	+140
at Minnesota	-126	N.Y Yankees	+108
at Tampa Bay	OFF	Houston	OFF

INTERLEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
Texas	-132	at Cincinnati	+112
at Cleveland	OFF	Colorado	OFF
at Milwaukee	-225	Detroit	+188
at Arizona	-142	Kansas City	+120
Seattle	OFF	at Philadelphia	OFF

LEADERS

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	H	R	Avg.
Arraez, Miami	20	72	32	8	.444
Acuña, Atlanta	24	99	36	21	.364
Marsh, Philadelphia	22	70	25	14	.357

Home Runs

Muncy, DODGERS	11
Alonso, New York	10
Wisdom, Chicago	9

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

Player	G	AB	H	R	Avg.
M.Chapman, Toronto	23	86	31	15	.360
Arozarena, Tampa Bay	23	89	31	18	.348
Kelenic, Seattle	21	73	25	11	.342

Home Runs

Devers, Boston	9
Kelenic, Seattle	7
A.García, Texas	7

DODGERS 8
PIRATES 7

Streak	Won 3	This month	12-10
Home	6-6	Road	7-5
Division	7-6	Interleague	0-0

Next: Today at Pittsburgh, 3:30 p.m. PDT
TV/Radio: SportsNet LA/570, 1020

Dodgers	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Betts ss	5	0	0	0	.253	Hayes 3b	5	1	2	2	.237
Freeman 1b	4	1	1	1	.280	Mrcno 2b	4	1	1	0	.286
Heywrd rf	2	1	0	0	.171	McCthn dh	5	1	1	3	.270
a-Thpsn rf	1	0	0	0	.184	Santana 1b	5	0	2	1	.261
Outman cf	5	1	2	0	.316	Swinski lf	5	0	2	0	.269
Vargas 2b	4	1	2	2	.231	Joe rf	5	0	0	0	.328
Peralta lf	5	1	0	0	.189	Castro ss	4	0	1	0	.258
Busch dh	3	1	1	1	.333	Bae cf	4	2	2	0	.224
Taylor 3b	4	2	3	3	.163	Hedges c	2	2	1	1	.188
Barnes c	3	0	0	1	.057	b-Mathias	0	0	0	0	.286
Totals	**36**	**8**	**9**	**8**		Delay c	0	0	0	0	.314
						Totals	**39**	**7**	**12**	**7**	

Dodgers	200	012	030 –8	9	0
Pittsburgh	120	400	000 –7	12	3

a-struck out for Heyward in 7th. b-walked for Hedges in 8th.

Walks—Dodgers 4: Freeman 1, Thompson 1, Vargas 1, Busch 1. Pittsburgh 1: Mathias 1. **Strikeouts**—Dodgers 7: Freeman 1, Heyward 1, Thompson 1, Outman 1, Peralta 1, Busch 1, Barnes 1. Pittsburgh 8: Hayes 1, McCutchen 2, Joe 2, Castro 1, Bae 1, Hedges 1.

E—Hedges (1), Bae (4), Castro (4). **LOB**—Dodgers 7, Pittsburgh 8.

2B—Vargas (4), Outman 2 (4), Hayes (7), Suwinski (4). **HR**—Taylor (5), off Holderman; McCutchen (5), off Syndergaard. **RBIs**—Vargas 2 (6), Freeman (8), Busch (1), Barnes (1), Taylor 3 (10), Santana (13), Hayes 2 (9), Hedges (3), McCutchen 3 (12). **SB**—Marcano (1), Bae 2 (7). **SF**—Barnes.

Runners left in scoring position—Dodgers 5 (Betts 2, Peralta 2, Heyward); Pittsburgh 5 (Joe, Bae, McCutchen 3). RISP_Dodgers 5 for 15; Pittsburgh 4 for 14. **Runners moved up**—Outman, Barnes, Betts, Marcano, Castro.

Dodgers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Syndergaard	4	9	7	7	0	2	80	6.58
González	1	1	0	0	0	1	14	0.00
Phillips	1	0	0	0	0	1	10	3.38
Almonte, W, 2-0	1	1	0	0	0	2	16	6.75
Ferguson, H, 2	1	1	0	0	1	1	25	1.93
Miller, S, 1-1	1	0	0	0	0	1	12	1.64
Pittsburgh	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Oviedo	5⅓	6	5	4	2	4	94	3.03
Stephenson, H, 4	⅔	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.00
Hernandez, H, 2	1	0	0	0	0	2	17	1.00
Holderman, L, 0-1, BS, 0-1	1	2	3	3	1	1	22	3.75
Underwood Jr.	1	1	0	0	1	0	20	3.18

HBP—Syndergaard (Hedges), Ferguson (Marcano).
T—2:45. **Tickets sold**—10,560 (38,753).

CUBS 6
PADRES 0

Justin Steele pitched three-hit ball into the sixth inning in his fourth straight win, and Chicago shut out San Diego. Yan Gomes, who's batting .441 (15 for 34), had four of Chicago's seven hits.

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Tatis Jr. rf	4	0	1	0	.182	Hoerner 2b	5	0	1	3	.347
Soto lf	4	0	0	0	.188	Swanson ss	3	0	0	0	.288
Machado 3b	3	0	0	0	.213	Happ lf	3	0	0	0	.295
Bogaerts ss	3	0	1	0	.330	Suzuki rf	4	0	0	0	.289
Crnwrth 1b	4	0	0	0	.220	Wisdom 3b	2	1	0	0	.250
Kim 2b	4	0	1	0	.197	Hosmer dh	4	0	0	0	.224
Carpenter dh	4	0	1	0	.239	Mancini 1b	2	2	1	0	.239
Nola c	2	0	1	0	.145	Gomes c	4	2	4	3	.309
Grisham cf	3	0	0	0	.198	Velázquez cf	3	1	1	0	.571
Totals	**31**	**0**	**5**	**0**		Totals	**30**	**6**	**7**	**6**	

San Diego	000	000	000 –0	5	0
Chicago	020	000	04x –6	7	0

Walks—San Diego 5: Tatis Jr. 1, Machado 1, Bogaerts 1, Nola 1, Grisham 1. Chicago 8: Swanson 2, Happ 1, Wisdom 2, Mancini 2, Velázquez 1. **Strikeouts**—San Diego 10: Tatis Jr. 2, Soto 2, Machado 1, Bogaerts 1, Cronenworth 1, Carpenter 2, Grisham 1. Chicago 5: Happ 1, Wisdom 2, Hosmer 2. **LOB**—San Diego 10, Chicago 8. **2B**—Carpenter (5). **3B**—Hoerner (1). **HR**—Gomes (5), off Snell. **RBIs**—Gomes 3 (12), Hoerner 3 (14). **CS**—Tatis Jr. (1). **Runners left in scoring position**—San Diego 5 (Grisham, Machado, Cronenworth, Carpenter, Tatis Jr.); Chicago 4 (Wisdom, Swanson 2, Hoerner). **RISP**—San Diego 0 for 8; Chicago 2 for 9. **Runners moved up**—Velázquez. **GIDP**—Velázquez. **DP**—San Diego 1 (Bogaerts, Kim, Cronenworth); Chicago 1 (Gomes, Swanson, Gomes).

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Snell, L, 0-4	5	4	2	2	5	5	105	5.48
García	1	0	0	0	0	0	11	9.31
Weathers	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	2.50
Wilson	⅔	1	4	4	3	0	35	3.14
Kerr	⅓	1	0	0	0	0	5	0.00
Chicago	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Steele, W, 4-0	5⅓	3	0	0	2	5	98	1.19
Alzolay, H, 4	⅔	0	0	0	0	2	12	2.38
Leiter Jr., H, 5	1	1	0	0	0	1	22	1.93
Thompson, H, 2	1	0	0	0	2	1	18	0.68
Rucker	1	1	0	0	1	1	17	2.61

Inherited runners-scored—Kerr 3-3. **HBP**—Leiter Jr. (Nola). **WP**—Snell, Steele.

U—Adam Beck, Clint Vondrak, Gabe Morales, Scott Barry. **T**—2:52. **Tickets sold**—27,956 (41,363).

ROCKIES 5
GUARDIANS 1

Charlie Blackmon homered and drove in two runs, Brenton Doyle had his first three major league hits and Colorado, a National League-worst 8-17, clinched its first series win this season.

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Blckmn dh	5	2	2	2	.274	Kwan lf	4	1	1	0	.266
Profar lf	3	0	0	1	.202	Rosario ss	3	0	1	1	.250
Bryant rf	5	0	2	1	.303	Ramírez 3b	4	0	1	0	.255
McMhn 3b	4	0	0	0	.226	Naylor 1b	4	0	1	0	.181
Díaz c	2	0	1	0	.333	Bell dh	4	0	1	0	.221
Mtakas 1b	4	0	0	0	.220	Giménez 2b	3	0	0	0	.238
Trejo 2b	3	1	0	0	.222	Zunino c	3	0	1	0	.245
Doyle cf	4	1	3	1	.429	Brennan rf	3	0	0	0	.229
Tovar ss	3	1	0	0	.187	Straw cf	3	0	0	0	.253
Totals	**33**	**5**	**8**	**5**		Totals	**31**	**1**	**6**	**1**	

Colorado	130	001	000 –5	8	1
Cleveland	000	001	000 –1	6	0

Walks—Colorado 6: Profar 1, McMahon 1, Díaz 2, Trejo 1, Tovar 1.

Strikeouts—Colorado 8: Blackmon 1, McMahon 1, Moustakas 1, Trejo 1, Doyle 1, Tovar 3. Cleveland 9: Kwan 1, Rosario 2, Bell 1, Giménez 1, Zunino 2, Brennan 1, Straw 1.

E—Díaz (3). **LOB**—Colorado 8, Cleveland 4. **2B**—Blackmon (6), Doyle (1), Ramírez (8), Zunino (7), Naylor (1). **HR**—Blackmon (2), off Battenfield. **RBIs**—Blackmon 2 (6), Profar (10), Bryant (7), Doyle (1), Rosario (5). **SB**—Doyle 2 (2), Trejo (1). **SF**—Profar, Rosario.

Runners left in scoring position—Colorado 4 (Moustakas 2, Profar, Tovar); Cleveland 3 (Bell 2, Straw). **RISP**—Colorado 3 for 9; Cleveland 0 for 5.

Runners moved up—Naylor. **GIDP**—Trejo, Ramírez.

DP—Colorado 1 (Trejo, Tovar, Moustakas, McMahon, Moustakas); Cleveland 1 (Rosario, Giménez, Naylor).

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Feltner, W, 2-2	6	5	1	0	0	6	82	4.68
Suter	2	0	0	0	0	2	20	1.10
Lawrence	1	1	0	0	0	1	18	2.08
Cleveland	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Battenfield, L, 0-2	4⅔	6	4	4	4	4	97	3.52
De Los Santos	1⅓	1	1	1	1	2	21	2.08
Karinchak	1	0	0	0	0	0	15	6.23
Pilkington	2	1	0	0	1	2	40	0.00

Inherited runners-scored—De Los Santos 2-0.

U—Doug Eddings, Edwin Moscoso, Lance Barrett, Ramon De Jesus. **T**—2:22. **Tickets sold**—9,493 (34,788).

TWINS 6
YANKEES 2

Joe Ryan became the first five-game winner this season, Byron Buxton and Trevor Larnach hit two-run homers in the sixth, and Minnesota clinched its first series vs. Yankees since 2001.

New York	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Volpe ss	4	0	2	0	.211	Solano 1b	3	1	1	1	.288
Rizzo 1b	4	0	0	0	.286	Gallo 1b	1	0	1	0	.263
Judge cf	4	1	1	0	.244	Correa ss	3	0	0	0	.205
LeMahieu 3b	4	0	1	1	.296	Polanco 2b	4	1	2	1	.409
Calhoun dh	4	0	2	0	.192	Buxton dh	4	1	2	2	.244
Peraza 2b	4	0	0	0	.158	Miranda 3b	4	0	0	0	.226
F.Cordero rf	4	0	0	0	.160	Jeffers c	4	1	1	0	.313
Trevino c	4	0	1	0	.212	Castro lf	3	0	0	0	.167
Hicks lf	3	1	1	0	.129	Larnach rf	3	1	1	2	.244
Totals	**35**	**2**	**8**	**1**		Taylor cf	4	1	0	0	.237
						Totals	**33**	**6**	**8**	**6**	

New York	100	010	000 –2	8	1
Minnesota	002	004	00x –6	8	1

Walks— Minnesota 3: Correa 1, Castro 1, Larnach 1.

Strikeouts—New York 9: Volpe 1, Rizzo 3, LeMahieu 1, Calhoun 1, Peraza 1, F.Cordero 2. Minnesota 9: Correa 1, Miranda 1, Jeffers 3, Castro 2, Larnach 1, Taylor 1.

E—Volpe (3), Solano (3). **LOB**—New York 6, Minnesota 6. **2B**—Buxton (4), Solano (5), Polanco 2 (4), Gallo (2). **HR**—Buxton (4), off Cortes; Larnach (3), off Marinaccio. **RBIs**—LeMahieu (9), Solano (4), Polanco (6), Buxton 2 (10), Larnach 2 (17).

Runners left in scoring position—New York 2 (Rizzo, Peraza); Minnesota 3 (Miranda 2, Larnach). **RISP**—New York 1 for 5; Minnesota 2 for 11.

New York	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cortes, L, 3-1	5	5	4	3	1	6	98	3.49
Marinaccio	1	2	2	2	0	2	22	2.53
Ramirez	2	1	0	0	2	1	35	0.00
Minnesota	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Ryan, W, 5-0	7	7	2	1	0	7	91	2.81
J.López	1	0	0	0	0	1	10	0.00
Duran	1	1	0	0	0	1	15	2.16

WP—Ryan.

U—Bill Miller, Chad Whitson, Roberto Ortiz, Rob Drake. **T**—2:16. **Tickets sold**—19,201 (38,544).

ANGELS 5
ATHLETICS 3

Streak	Won 1	This month	12-11
Home	6-5	Road	6-7
Division	5-3	Interleague	2-1

Next: Tonight vs. Oakland, Angel Stadium, 6:30
TV/Radio: BS West/830, 1220

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Angels	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Ruiz cf	5	0	0	0	.256	Ward lf	4	0	2	1	.228
Noda 1b	3	1	1	0	.222	Trout cf	4	1	2	0	.326
Rooker lf-rf	3	1	1	0	.333	Ohtani dh	4	0	0	0	.253
Peterson 3b	4	0	1	1	.190	Rendon 3b	2	1	0	0	.226
Aguilar dh	3	0	0	0	.262	Drury 2b	4	1	2	2	.227
Capel rf	2	0	0	0	.294	Rengifo rf	3	1	1	1	.203
a-Diaz 2b	2	0	1	1	.294	Phillips rf	1	0	0	0	.000
Langeliers c	3	1	1	1	.222	Urshela 1b	4	1	2	1	.291
Kemp 2b-lf	4	0	0	0	.169	Thaiss c	4	0	1	0	.150
K.Smith ss	4	0	1	0	.191	Neto ss	4	0	0	0	.211
Totals	**33**	**3**	**6**	**3**		Totals	**34**	**5**	**10**	**5**	

Oakland	100	011	000 –3	6	0
Angels	400	001	00x –5	10	0

a-doubled for Capel in the 6th.

Walks—Oakland 4: Noda 1, Rooker 1, Aguilar 1, Langeliers 1. Angels 2: Rendon 2 **Strikeouts**—Oakland 11: Noda 2, Rooker 2, Peterson 1, Aguilar 2, Capel 1, Diaz 1, Kemp 1, K.Smith 1. Angels 8: Ward 1, Trout 1, Ohtani 2, Rendon 1, Drury 2, Thaiss 1. **LOB**—Oakland 7, Angels 7. **2B**—Rooker (2), Diaz (2), Noda (3), Trout (9). **3B**—Peterson (1), Drury (1). **HR**—Langeliers (5), off Canning. **RBIs**—Peterson (8), Langeliers (11), Diaz (4), Drury 2 (11), Rengifo (7), Urshela (10), Ward (10). **SB**—Rengifo (2), Ohtani 2 (3), Rendon (1). **Runners left in scoring position**—Oakland 4 (Kemp, Aguilar, Noda, Rooker); Angels 3 (Drury 2, Trout). **RISP**—Oakland 1 for 7; Angels 4 for 8. **Runners moved up**—Ruiz.

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Miller, L, 0-1	4	5	4	4	1	6	86	6.48
Lovelady	1	1	0	0	1	1	31	0.00
Oller	1	3	1	1	0	0	24	9.17
Long	2	1	0	0	0	1	32	0.00
Angels	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Canning, W, 1-0	5	4	3	3	2	7	88	4.11
Loup, H, 3	1	1	0	0	1	2	15	5.68
Moore, H, 6	1⅓	1	0	0	1	1	26	1.46
Estévez, S, 4-4	1⅔	0	0	0	0	1	17	1.54

Inherited runners-scored—Loup 1-1, Estévez 1-0. **IBB**—by Loup (Langeliers).

U—Sean Barber, Jim Wolf, Mike Muchlinski, Nate Tomlinson. **T**—2:47. **Tickets sold**—26,971 (45,517).

GIANTS 5
CARDINALS 4

Blake Sabol hit a two-run walk-off homer (428 feet) to center to help rally San Francisco from down 4-2 entering the ninth. The Giants have won four straight. Ryan Helsley took the loss.

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	San Fran.	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Nootbaar rf	3	0	0	0	.250	Wade Jr. lf	4	0	1	0	.218
b-O'Neill lf	1	1	1	1	.264	Conforto rf	3	0	1	0	.200
Gldsdt 1b	4	0	2	2	.287	Davis 3b	3	0	0	0	.292
Gorman dh	4	0	0	0	.293	Pederson dh	4	1	1	0	.250
Arenado 3b	4	0	0	0	.272	Ystrzmski cf	4	2	2	2	.291
Contreras c	4	0	2	0	.273	Estrada 2b	4	1	1	0	.310
Burleson lf-rf	3	0	0	0	.239	Crawford ss	4	0	0	0	.154
Carlson cf	3	1	2	0	.234	Sabol c	4	1	2	2	.224
Donovan 2b	2	0	0	0	.264	Villar 1b	3	0	0	0	.152
a-DeJong ss	2	0	1	0	.444	Totals	**33**	**5**	**8**	**4**	
Edman ss	4	2	1	1	.267						
Totals	**34**	**4**	**9**	**4**							

St. Louis	001	000	030 –4	9	3
San Francisco	010	100	003 –5	8	1

Two outs when winning run scored. a-singled for Donovan in the 8th. b-doubled for Nootbaar in the 8th.

Walks— San Francisco 2: Conforto 1, Davis 1 **Strikeouts**—St. Louis 8: Nootbaar 2, Gorman 1, Arenado 1, Contreras 1, Burleson 1, Carlson 1, Donovan 1. San Francisco 9: Conforto 1, Pederson 1, Yastrzemski 1, Estrada 2, Crawford 2, Sabol 2 **E**—Contreras (2), Carlson (1), Edman (4), Villar (1). **LOB**—St. Louis 5, San Francisco 4. **2B**—O'Neill (4), Yastrzemski (6). **HR**—Edman (4), off Manaea; Yastrzemski (5), off Woodford; Sabol (4), off Helsley. **RBIs**—Edman (9), O'Neill (6), Goldschmidt 2 (11), Yastrzemski 2 (13), Sabol 2 (8). **S**—Burleson. **DP**—St. Louis 1 (DeJong, Edman, Goldschmidt); San Francisco 1 (Villar).

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Woodford	5⅓	5	2	2	1	4	92	5.47
Cabrera	1⅔	0	0	0	0	4	27	2.79
Gallegos, H, 2	1	1	0	0	1	0	14	0.00
Helsley, L, 0-2, BS, 3-6	⅔	2	3	0	0	1	18	1.93
San Francisco	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Brebbia	1⅓	1	0	0	0	2	24	4.82
Manaea	1⅔	1	1	1	0	2	13	6.61
Junis	1	1	0	0	0	1	21	3.95
Ta.Rogers	1⅓	1	0	0	0	1	14	8.22
Ty.Rogers, H, 2	2	0	0	0	0	1	21	0.68
Alexander, BS, 0-1	⅓	3	3	3	0	0	11	4.66
Doval	⅔	1	0	0	0	1	12	2.79
Hjelle, W, 1-0	1	1	0	0	0	0	10	6.75

HBP—Hjelle (Carlson). **T**—2:34. **Tickets sold**—20,797 (41,915).

ROYALS 5
DIAMONDBACKS 4

Brady Singer pitched six strong innings, striking out five and walking none to help lift Kansas City. The Royals, at the bottom of the AL Central, have won two of their last 11.

Kan. City	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Witt Jr. ss	5	1	2	0	.253	Rojas 3b	4	0	0	1	.278
Psqntno 1b	5	0	1	0	.286	Marte 2b	5	0	0	0	.267
Perez c	4	1	2	0	.244	Carroll rf	4	2	3	0	.303
Olivares lf	5	1	2	1	.250	Walker 1b	5	0	0	1	.226
Massey 2b	4	0	2	1	.188	Griel Jr. lf	4	1	2	0	.267
Reyes dh	3	0	0	1	.220	Smith dh	3	0	1	0	.353
Isbel cf	4	1	2	0	.209	a-Rvra dh	1	0	1	1	1.000
Dozier rf	3	1	0	0	.189	Moreno c	4	1	1	0	.288
Brdly Jr. rf	0	0	0	0	.114	Thomas cf	3	0	1	0	.188
Lopez 3b	4	0	2	1	.196	Prdmo ss	3	0	1	0	.365
Totals	**37**	**5**	**14**	**4**		Totals	**36**	**4**	**10**	**3**	

Kansas City	100	120	010 –5	14	1
Arizona	000	100	120 –4	10	0

a-singled for Smith in the 8th.

Walks—Kansas City 1: Dozier 1. Arizona 3: Carroll 1, Thomas 1, Perdomo 1.

Strikeouts—Kansas City 4: Witt Jr. 1, Massey 1, Reyes 1, Dozier 1. Arizona 9: Rojas 1, Marte 3, Walker 1, Moreno 1, Thomas 2, Perdomo 1.

E—Witt Jr. (2). **LOB**—Kansas City 8, Arizona 9. **2B**—Isbel (6), Dozier (1), Olivares (2), Witt Jr. (3), Gurriel Jr. (6), Carroll (8), Perdomo (6). **3B**—Isbel (1), Carroll (1). **RBIs**—Olivares (7), Lopez (6), Massey (5), Reyes (7), Walker (15), Rojas (11), Rivera (1). **SB**—Gurriel Jr. (1), Carroll 2 (10). **CS**—Isbel (1). **SF**—Reyes, Rojas.

Runners left in scoring position—Kansas City 1 (Reyes); Arizona 6 (Thomas, Marte, Gurriel Jr., Moreno, Walker 2). **RISP**—Kansas City 3 for 8; Arizona 1 for 12.

Runners moved up—Walker, Rojas. **GIDP**—Reyes, Olivares.

DP—Arizona 2 (Rojas, Marte, Walker; Marte, Walker).

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Singer, W, 2-2	6	5	1	1	0	5	92	6.67
Clarke, H, 1	1	1	1	1	2	1	25	5.73
Chapman, H, 2	⅓	3	2	1	0	1	17	1.93
Barlow, S, 3-4	1⅔	1	0	0	1	2	25	6.75
Arizona	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
R.Nelson, L, 1-1	5	11	4	4	0	3	83	5.33
Ruiz	2	0	0	0	0	1	33	3.68
Misiewicz	1	2	1	1	1	0	17	4.91
Ginkel	1	1	0	0	0	0	12	3.97

Inherited runners-scored—Barlow 1-0. **HBP**—Ginkel (Perez). **WP**—Misiewicz.

U—John Libka, Edwin Jimenez, James Hoye, D.J. Reyburn. **T**—2:42. **Tickets sold**—13,835 (48,359).

BLUE JAYS 7
WHITE SOX 0

José Berríos struck out a season-high nine in his second consecutive seven-inning outing, Danny Jansen homered twice and Toronto extended Chicago's losing streak to six games.

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Robert Jr. cf	4	0	0	0	.216	Springer rf	4	0	3	1	.219
Benintendi lf	4	0	1	0	.294	Bichette ss	4	0	1	0	.324
Jiménez rf	4	0	0	0	.183	Guro Jr. 1b	4	0	1	0	.330
Sheets 1b	4	0	1	0	.289	Varsho lf	4	0	0	0	.202
Vaughn dh	3	0	0	0	.235	Chpmn 3b	3	1	1	0	.360
Grandal c	3	0	0	0	.257	Belt dh	3	1	0	0	.189
Zavala c	0	0	0	0	.222	Mrrifld 2b	3	1	0	0	.302
Burger 3b	3	0	1	0	.227	Jansen c	4	3	3	4	.205
Andrus ss	2	0	1	0	.205	Kiermr cf	4	1	1	2	.299
González 2b	3	0	0	0	.103	Totals	**33**	**7**	**10**	**7**	
Totals	**30**	**0**	**4**	**0**							

Chicago	000	000	000 –0	4	0
Toronto	030	301	00x –7	10	0

Walks—Chicago 1: Vaughn 1. Toronto 3: Chapman 1, Belt 1, Merrifield 1.

Strikeouts—Chicago 10: Robert Jr. 2, Benintendi 2, Jiménez 2, Grandal 1, Burger 2, González 1. Toronto 5: Bichette 1, Guerrero Jr. 1, Varsho 1, Chapman 1, Kiermaier 1.

LOB—Chicago 5, Toronto 5. **2B**—Guerrero Jr. (3). **3B**—Kiermaier (2). **HR**—Jansen (2), off Clevinger; Jansen (3), off Banks. **RBIs**—Jansen 4 (12), Kiermaier 2 (8), Springer (9). **SB**—Springer (4), Merrifield (3).

Runners left in scoring position—Chicago 2 (Robert Jr., Jiménez); Toronto 3 (Belt 2, Varsho). **RISP**—Chicago 0 for 2; Toronto 3 for 9.

Runners moved up—González. **GIDP**—Grandal, Bichette.

DP—Chicago 1 (Burger, González, Sheets); Toronto 1 (Bichette, Guerrero Jr.).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Clevinger, L, 2-2	5	7	6	6	3	3	100	4.81
Banks	3	3	1	1	0	2	39	3.38
Toronto	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Berríos, W, 2-3	7	4	0	0	1	9	103	4.71
Pearson	1	0	0	0	0	1	22	0.00
Bass	1	0	0	0	0	0	14	6.48

HBP—Pearson (Andrus).

U—Jeremy Riggs, Chris Guccione, Ryan Blakney, David Rackley. **T**—2:24. **Tickets sold**—28,917 (49,282).

NATIONALS 5
METS 0

Josiah Gray pitched six overpowering innings and batterymate Keibert Ruiz homered to help rebuilding Washington beat New York in the season's first meeting between NL East foes.

Wash.	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	New York	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Call lf	3	1	2	0	.222	Nimmo cf	3	0	1	0	.349
García 2b	5	2	1	2	.222	Marte rf	4	0	0	0	.227
Cndlrio 3b	4	0	0	0	.247	Lindor ss	4	0	1	0	.222
Mnses dh	5	0	3	2	.267	Alonso 1b	4	0	0	0	.255
Ruiz c	4	1	3	1	.288	McNeil lf	4	0	0	0	.282
D.Smth 1b	4	0	1	0	.234	Vglbch dh	3	0	1	0	.256
Thomas rf	4	0	0	0	.265	Baty 3b	3	0	1	0	.250
Abrams ss	5	0	0	0	.205	Guillorme 2b	3	0	0	0	.244
Robles cf	4	1	1	0	.288	Álvarez c	3	0	1	0	.167
Totals	**38**	**5**	**11**	**5**		Totals	**31**	**0**	**5**	**0**	

Washington	011	003	000 –5	11	0
New York	000	000	000 –0	5	1

Walks—Washington 6: Call 2, Candelario 1, Ruiz 1, Do.Smith 1, Thomas 1. New York 1: Nimmo 1.

Strikeouts—Washington 5: Candelario 2, Meneses 1, Thomas 1, Abrams 1. New York 13: Nimmo 2, Marte 2, Alonso 2, Vogelbach 1, Baty 2, Guillorme 2, Álvarez 2.

E—Lindor (1). **LOB**—Washington 13, New York 5. **2B**—García (2), Baty (1). **HR**—Ruiz (2), off Butto. **RBIs**—Ruiz (8), Meneses 2 (9), García 2 (9). **SB**—Robles (4).

Runners left in scoring position—Washington 8 (Do.Smith 2, Thomas, Abrams, Ruiz, García 3); New York 2 (Marte 2). **RISP**—Washington 4 for 12; New York 1 for 3.

Runners moved up—Thomas, Robles. **GIDP**—Alonso.

DP—Washington 1 (García, Do.Smith).

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gray, W, 1-4	6	4	0	0	1	9	91	2.93
Thompson, S, 1-1	3	1	0	0	0	4	28	0.96
New York	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Butto, L, 0-1	4⅔	4	2	2	6	1	93	2.79
Yacabonis	2	6	3	3	0	3	45	6.35
Hunter	1⅓	1	0	0	0	1	15	7.11
Ottavino	1	0	0	0	0	0	16	2.00

Inherited runners-scored—Yacabonis 2-0, Hunter 2-0. HBP_Yacabonis (Robles). PB_Álvarez (1).

U—Brennan Miller, Mark Carlson, Jordan Baker, Tripp Gibson. **T**—2:33. **Tickets sold**—20,507 (42,136).

MARINERS 5
PHILLIES 3

Jarred Kelenic hit a solo homer, double and single, Teoscar Hernández also went deep and Seattle opened a nine-game trip with a win to prevent Philadelphia from reaching .500.

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Phila.	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Rodríguez cf	4	0	0	0	.235	Stott 2b	4	0	1	0	.337
France 1b	4	0	0	0	.278	Turner ss	4	0	0	0	.282
Suárez 3b	4	1	1	0	.261	Schwrbr dh	3	1	0	0	.205
Hernández rf	4	1	1	2	.244	Castllns rf	4	0	2	0	.315
Pollock dh	4	0	0	0	.116	Ralmuto c	4	0	1	0	.247
Kelenic lf	4	1	3	1	.342	Bohm 1b	4	1	1	1	.300
Raleigh c	4	1	1	0	.225	Sosa 3b	4	1	1	1	.311
Caballero 2b	3	1	1	1	.214	Marsh cf	4	0	1	0	.357
Crawford ss	3	0	1	1	.242	Pache lf	3	0	2	0	.348
Totals	**34**	**5**	**8**	**5**		a-Cave	1	0	1	1	.200
						Totals	**35**	**3**	**10**	**3**	

Seattle	000	022	100 –5	8	0
Philadelphia	000	011	001 –3	10	1

a-singled for Pache in the 9th.

Walks—Seattle 1: Crawford 1. Philadelphia 1: Stott 1. **Strikeouts**—Seattle 9: Rodríguez 2, France 1, Suárez 2, Pollock 1, Raleigh 2, Caballero 1. Philadelphia 7: Stott 2, Turner 3, Sosa 1, Marsh 1.

E—Realmuto (1). **LOB**—Seattle 4, Philadelphia 7.

2B—Kelenic (7), Suárez (4), Bohm (5). **3B**—Raleigh (1). **HR**—Kelenic (7), off Falter; Hernández (6), off Falter; Sosa (3), off Gonzales. **RBIs**—Kelenic (14), Crawford (4), Hernández 2 (15), Caballero (1), Sosa (7), Bohm (19), Cave (8). **SB**—Crawford (1). **SF**—Caballero.

Runners left in scoring position—Seattle 3 (France, Crawford, Raleigh); Philadelphia 2 (Sosa, Turner). **RISP**—Seattle 2 for 5; Philadelphia 2 for 7. **Runners moved up**—Caballero, Sosa.

LIDP—Pache. **GIDP**—Realmuto. **DP**—Seattle 2 (Crawford, Caballero, France; Caballero, France, Caballero).

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gonzales, W, 2-0	5	4	1	1	1	2	75	3.32
Brash, H, 3	1	2	1	1	0	2	19	5.91
Speier, H, 3	1	2	0	0	0	1	18	0.00
Topa, H, 5	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.00
Sewald, S, 7-7	1	2	1	1	0	2	21	3.46
Philadelphia	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Falter, L, 0-4	6	6	4	3	0	7	98	4.50
Brogdon	1	1	1	1	1	0	20	3.00
Marte	1	0	0	0	0	1	11	27.00
Vasquez	1	1	0	0	0	1	15	0.79

HBP—Brash (Schwarber).

U—Laz Diaz, Ryan Wills, Andy Fletcher, Erich Bacchus. **T**—2:38. **Tickets sold**—42,323 (42,901).

TIGERS 4
BREWERS 3

Kerry Carpenter hit a three-run home run and four Detroit pitchers held Milwaukee in check, sending the Brewers to their third straight loss for the first time this season.

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Vrling cf	5	0	3	0	.258	Yelich lf	4	0	0	1	.237
Báez ss	5	1	2	0	.234	Winker dh	2	0	0	0	.220
Haase lf	4	0	1	0	.255	b-Voit dh	2	0	1	0	.268
Greene cf	1	0	0	0	.221	1-Perkins dh	0	0	0	0	.125
Trklsn 1b	5	0	2	1	.229	Adames ss	2	0	0	0	.256
Nevin 3b	2	0	0	0	.056	Tellez 1b	4	1	1	1	.230
a-Maton 3b	3	0	0	0	.147	Contreras c	3	1	0	0	.309
Cabrera dh	4	0	2	0	.205	Anderson rf	4	0	0	0	.265
Schoop 2b	3	1	1	0	.222	Turang 2b	4	0	1	0	.225
Rogers c	3	1	0	0	.235	Miller 3b	4	1	1	1	.286
Carpenter rf	4	1	1	3	.210	Wiemer cf	3	0	1	0	.211
Totals	**39**	**4**	**12**	**4**		Totals	**32**	**3**	**5**	**3**	

Detroit	040	000	000 –4	12	0
Milwaukee	001	101	000 –3	5	0

a-popped out for Nevin in the 5th. b-struck out for Winker in the 5th. 1-ran for Voit in the 8th.

Walks—Detroit 2: Schoop 1, Rogers 1. Milwaukee 3: Adames 2, Contreras 1. **Strikeouts**—Detroit 8: Vierling 1, Haase 2, Cabrera 1, Schoop 1, Rogers 1, Carpenter 2. Milwaukee 10: Yelich 1, Winker 1, Voit 1, Adames 2, Tellez 1, Contreras 1, Anderson 2, Turang 1. **LOB**—Detroit 10, Milwaukee 5. **2B**—Báez (4), Turang (2), Voit (2). **HR**—Carpenter (4), off Lauer; Tellez (8), off Alexander. **RBIs**—Carpenter 3 (8), Torkelson (11), Yelich (11), Miller (3), Tellez (18). **SB**—Vierling (3). **Runners left in scoring position**—Detroit 5 (Báez, Vierling, Haase, Nevin 2); Milwaukee 3 (Contreras, Wiemer, Tellez). **RISP**—Detroit 3 for 10; Milwaukee 0 for 7.

Runners moved up—Miller.

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Turnbull	4	3	2	2	3	2	75	7.25
Alexander	1	1	1	1	0	2	21	5.65
Englert, W, 1-1	2⅔	1	0	0	0	4	40	3.94
Foley, S, 2-2	1⅓	0	0	0	0	2	15	1.74
Milwaukee	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Lauer, L, 3-2	3	8	4	4	2	4	85	5.19
Peguero	3	2	0	0	0	2	34	0.00
Payamps	2	2	0	0	0	2	31	3.27
Strzelecki	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.82

Inherited runners-scored—Foley 1-0. **WP**—Turnbull.

U—Hunter Wendelstedt, John Tumpane, Alex MacKay, Marvin Hudson. **T**—2:40. **Tickets sold**—24,924 (41,700).

ASTROS 5
RAYS 0

Luis Garcia scattered three hits over six innings and Houston ended Tampa Bay's 14-game season-opening home winning streak. Only three teams have had a longer run than the 20-4 Rays.

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Dubón 2b	5	1	2	0	.329	Díaz dh	3	0	1	0	.313
Peña ss	4	1	2	1	.229	Franco ss	4	0	1	0	.315
Tucker rf	5	1	2	1	.301	Arozarena lf	4	0	1	0	.348
Brgmn 3b	4	0	0	0	.237	J.Lowe rf	4	0	1	0	.328
J.Abreu 1b	4	1	1	1	.250	Paredes 3b	4	0	0	0	.216
Julks lf	4	1	2	1	.317	Raley 1b	3	0	0	0	.176
Meyers cf	4	0	2	1	.302	Walls 2b	3	0	1	0	.333
Hensley dh	4	0	0	0	.143	Mejía c	3	0	0	0	.222
Mldndo c	3	0	0	0	.143	Siri cf	2	0	0	0	.292
Totals	**37**	**5**	**11**	**5**		Totals	**30**	**0**	**5**	**0**	

Houston	000	050	000 –5	11	0
Tampa Bay	000	000	000 –0	5	0

Walks—Houston 3: Peña 1, Bregman 1, Maldonado 1. Tampa Bay 2: Díaz 1, Siri 1.

Strikeouts—Houston 7: Dubón 1, Peña 1, J.Abreu 1, Meyers 1, Hensley 2, Maldonado 1. Tampa Bay 8: Díaz 1, Franco 1, Arozarena 1, J.Lowe 2, Raley 1, Mejía 1, Siri 1.

LOB—Houston 8, Tampa Bay 5. **2B**—Dubón 2 (6), Peña (7), J.Abreu (4), Julks (4), Franco (12). **RBIs**—Peña (14), Tucker (19), J.Abreu (11), Julks (8), Meyers (7). **SB**—Julks (1), Dubón (2).

Runners left in scoring position—Houston 4 (Bregman, Julks 2, Hensley); Tampa Bay 1 (Paredes). **RISP**—Houston 4 for 10; Tampa Bay 0 for 3.

Runners moved up—J.Lowe. **GIDP**—Dubón, Franco, Paredes.

DP—Houston 2 (Peña, J.Abreu; Bregman, Dubón, J.Abreu); Tampa Bay 1 (Paredes, Walls, Raley).

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Garcia, W, 2-2	6	3	0	0	2	7	97	4.00
Maton	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.00
Montero	1	1	0	0	0	1	14	2.70
Pressly	1	1	0	0	0	0	11	4.82
Tampa Bay	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Rasmussen, L, 3-2	4⅔	9	5	5	2	5	94	3.33
Hembree	1⅓	0	0	0	1	2	18	0.00
Poche	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	1.08
Beeks	1	1	0	0	0	0	20	4.63
Adam	1	1	0	0	0	0	19	2.16

Inherited runners-scored—Hembree 1-0.

U—Brock Ballou, Vic Carapazza, Nick Mahrley, Jerry Layne. **T**—2:44. **Tickets sold**—9,916 (25,025).

BRAVES 7
MARLINS 4

Charlie Morton, 39, pitched seven strong innings, Ozzie Albies homered twice and five-time defending NL East champion Atlanta beat Miami for the 10th time in the last 12 meetings.

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Chism Jr. cf	5	1	2	1	.218	Acuña Jr. rf	4	1	2	0	.364
Soler dh	5	1	1	0	.253	Olson 1b	2	0	0	0	.261
DLCruz lf	4	0	1	1	.295	Riley 3b	4	0	1	1	.270
García rf	4	0	1	1	.161	Murphy c	4	1	1	0	.275
Segura 3b	4	0	0	0	.189	Rosario dh	3	2	1	1	.200
Gurriel 1b	4	1	2	1	.293	Albies 2b	4	2	2	2	.263
Berti 2b	3	0	1	0	.233	Grissom ss	4	1	1	1	.270
Fortes c	2	0	0	0	.167	Hilliard cf	4	0	1	1	.327
a-Sánchez	1	0	1	0	.172	Pillar lf	4	0	1	1	.214
Hmpsn ss	3	1	1	0	.250	Totals	**33**	**7**	**10**	**7**	
Totals	**35**	**4**	**10**	**4**							

Miami	001	000	021 –4	10	0
Atlanta	100	301	02x –7	10	0

a-singled for Fortes in the 9th.

Walks—Miami 2: Berti 1, Fortes 1. Atlanta 3: Olson 2, Rosario 1. **Strikeouts**—Miami 11: Chisholm Jr. 2, Soler 1, De La Cruz 3, García 3, Gurriel 1, Fortes 1. Atlanta 7: Acuña Jr. 1, Riley 1, Murphy 1, Rosario 2, Grissom 1, Hilliard 1. **LOB**—Miami 7, Atlanta 5. **2B**—Hampson (3), Acuña Jr. (9), Pillar (2). **HR**—Chisholm Jr. (4), off Morton; Gurriel (2), off Chavez; Albies (6), off Nardi; Rosario (3), off Scott; Albies (7), off Scott. **RBIs**—Chisholm Jr. (9), De La Cruz (9), García (6), Gurriel (4), Riley (15), Grissom (4), Hilliard (6), Pillar (4), Albies 2 (23), Rosario (4). **SB**—Acuña Jr. (13), Gurriel (1). **S**—Hampson. **Runners left in scoring position**—Miami 3 (Fortes, Soler, Chisholm Jr.); Atlanta 3 (Murphy, Olson 2). **RISP**—Miami 3 for 8; Atlanta 4 for 10.

Runners moved up—Albies, Riley. **GIDP**—Segura, Riley.

DP—Miami 1 (Berti, Gurriel); Atlanta 1 (Riley, Albies, Olson).

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Hoeing, L, 0-1	3⅔	6	4	4	2	2	64	9.82
Okert	1⅓	0	0	0	0	3	19	3.00
Nardi	1	1	1	1	0	0	15	4.22
Smeltzer	1	1	0	0	1	0	21	8.10
Scott	1	2	2	2	0	2	18	6.30
Atlanta	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Morton, W, 3-2	7	3	1	1	2	9	108	2.76
Lee	⅓	3	2	2	0	1	25	1.54
McHugh, H, 2	⅔	1	0	0	0	0	5	2.08
Chavez	1	3	1	1	0	1	23	3.60

Inherited runners-scored—Okert 2-0, McHugh 2-1.

U—Brian O'Nora, Pat Hoberg, Nestor Ceja, Alfonso Marquez. **T**—2:32. **Tickets sold**—34,059 (41,149).

REDS 7
RANGERS 6

Jonathan India hit a go-ahead, two-run single to cap a five-run eighth inning as Cincinnati rallied from a 6-0 deficit in the Reds' second big comeback in two days against the Rangers.

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Semien 2b	4	1	1	1	.290	India 2b	5	0	1	2	.287
Jankowski lf	5	1	3	0	.356	Steer 3b	5	0	0	0	.274
Lowe 1b	5	2	2	1	.253	Fairchild lf	2	1	0	0	.189
García rf	5	1	2	0	.258	Stphnsn 1b	4	1	2	0	.272
Jung 3b	4	0	1	2	.281	Ramos rf	4	2	2	1	.429
Heim c	4	0	0	1	.288	Newman ss	4	0	1	0	.204
Duran dh	3	0	0	0	.289	Senzel cf	4	1	3	2	.200
J.Smith ss	4	1	1	1	.171	Barrero dh	3	1	0	0	.217
Taveras cf	3	0	0	0	.250	Maile c	2	0	1	0	.211
Totals	**37**	**6**	**10**	**6**		a-Friedl cf	1	0	0	0	.309
						b-Myers	0	0	0	0	.222
						c-Fraley lf	1	1	1	2	.212
						Totals	**35**	**7**	**11**	**7**	

Texas	100	131	000 –6	10	1
Cincinnati	000	000	16x –7	11	0

a-struck out for Maile in the 7th. b- for Friedl in the 8th. c-doubled for Myers in the 8th.

Walks—Texas 2: Semien 1, Taveras 1. Cincinnati 2: Fairchild 1, Barrero 1. **Strikeouts**—Texas 14: Semien 1, Jankowski 1, Lowe 2, García 2, Jung 3, Duran 2, J.Smith 2, Taveras 1. Cincinnati 7: India 2, Steer 1, Stephenson 1, Ramos 1, Barrero 1, Friedl 1. **E**—J.Smith (2). **LOB**—Texas 7, Cincinnati 7. **2B**—Lowe (8), García (4), Jung (4), Fraley (3). **HR**—Lowe (3), off Weaver; Semien (5), off Weaver; J.Smith (1), off Weaver. **RBIs**—Lowe (16), Heim (17), Semien (22), Jung 2 (16), J.Smith (1), Senzel 2 (5), Ramos (2), Fraley 2 (12), India 2 (10). **SB**—Duran (2), Jankowski (4).**RISP**—Texas 2 for 8; Cincinnati 6 for 12. **Runners moved up**—Heim.

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pérez	6⅓	6	1	0	1	5	92	2.60
Hernández	⅔	0	0	0	0	1	11	1.80
Ragans	⅔	3	5	5	1	0	19	6.52
Kennedy, L, 0-1, BS, 0-1	⅓	2	1	1	0	1	18	9.00
Cincinnati	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Weaver	5⅔	8	6	6	2	8	99	7.71
Law	1⅓	1	0	0	0	3	21	2.53
Sanmartin, W, 1-0	1	0	0	0	0	1	20	3.18
Díaz, S, 3-3	1	1	0	0	0	2	21	3.38

Inherited runners-scored—Hernández 2-0, Kennedy 3-3, Law 1-0. **HBP**—Weaver (Duran), Ragans (Fairchild).

U—Ryan Additon, Dan Merzel, Lance Barksdale, Will Little. **T**—2:34. **Tickets sold**—9,969 (43,891).

RED SOX 8
ORIOLES 6

Jarren Duran hit a grand slam in the third and Boston withstood a five-run ninth inning by Baltimore, holding on for a victory that ended the Orioles' seven-game winning streak.

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.	Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Verdugo rf	5	0	1	0	.313	Mullins cf	5	1	1	4	.256
Devers 3b	3	0	0	1	.247	Rtschmn c	5	0	1	0	.284
Turner dh	4	0	0	0	.272	Sntndr dh	5	0	1	0	.213
Yoshida lf	4	1	2	0	.278	Mntcstle 1b	4	0	2	0	.237
Hrndz ss	5	1	1	0	.220	Hndrsn 3b	4	1	2	1	.203
Casas 1b	3	2	1	0	.145	Urías 2b	4	1	1	0	.246
Duran cf	4	3	3	4	.387	Frazier rf	4	0	0	0	.206
Arroyo 2b	3	1	1	1	.196	Hays lf	1	0	0	0	.301
Valdez 2b	1	0	1	0	.600	Vavra lf	3	1	2	0	.240
McGuire c	3	0	1	2	.359	Mateo ss	4	2	1	1	.351
Totals	**35**	**8**	**11**	**8**		Totals	**39**	**6**	**11**	**6**	

Boston	034	000	010 –8	11	1
Baltimore	000	010	005 –6	11	0

Walks—Boston 5: Devers 1, Turner 1, Yoshida 1, Casas 1, McGuire 1.

Strikeouts—Boston 5: Verdugo 3, Hernández 1, Arroyo 1. Baltimore 4: Mullins 2, Santander 1, Mateo 1.

E—Valdez (2). **LOB**—Boston 6, Baltimore 6. **2B**—Duran (5). **HR**—Duran (1), off Bradish; Mateo (4), off Kluber; Henderson (2), off Ort; Mullins (3), off Ort. **RBIs**—Arroyo (4), McGuire 2 (6), Devers (24), Duran 4 (10), Mateo (13), Henderson (4), Mullins 4 (19). **SF**—Devers.

Runners left in scoring position—Boston 3 (Verdugo, Turner 2); Baltimore 1 (Urías). **RISP**—Boston 5 for 9; Baltimore 1 for 3.

Runners moved up—McGuire. **GIDP**—Yoshida, Hernández.

DP—Baltimore 2 (Urías, Mateo, Mountcastle; Henderson, Urías, Mountcastle).

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kluber, W, 1-4	6	5	1	1	0	3	80	6.75
Winckowski	2	2	0	0	0	1	27	1.47
Ort	⅓	4	5	4	0	0	17	7.30
Jansen, S, 6-6	⅔	0	0	0	0	0	11	0.00
Baltimore	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Bradish, L, 1-1	2⅓	8	7	7	4	1	81	6.30
Baumann	2⅔	1	0	0	0	2	32	0.64
Voth	3	2	1	1	0	2	44	6.39
Pérez	1	0	0	0	1	0	14	4.66

Inherited runners-scored—Baumann 1-0.

U—Adrian Johnson, Manny Gonzalez, Quinn Wolcott, Junior Valentine. **T**—2:44. **Tickets sold**—14,343 (45,971).

NOTES

Pirates, Reynolds ink mega contract

Bryan Reynolds is sticking with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The veteran outfielder agreed to an eight-year deal worth $106.75 million, three people with knowledge of the agreement told the Associated Press.

The contract is the richest in the Pittsburgh Pirates history and gives the club another cornerstone to build around as it tries to emerge from four straight last-place finishes in the NL Central.

Etc.

Ex-Yankee **Clint Frazier** was released from his minor league contract with the Texas Rangers. ... The major-league leading Tampa Bay Rays reinstated center fielder **Jose Siri** from the 10-day IL list and optioned promising right-hander **Taj Bradley** to triple-A Durham. ... The Chicago Cubs placed outfielder **Cody Bellinger** on the paternity list. Bellinger and his girlfriend welcomed their second child on Sunday, a girl.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

GENE J. PUSKAR Associated Press

TRAYCE THOMPSON is tagged out by Pirates catcher Jason Delay while attempting to score on a fielder's choice in the ninth inning. The Dodgers scored three in the eighth on Chris Taylor's go-ahead home run.

Early slide overcome at plate

Taylor's homer in the eighth caps rally from five runs down to stop the Pirates' win streak.

DODGERS 8
PITTSBURGH 7

By Jack Harris

PITTSBURGH — Pirates left fielder Jack Suwinski drifted to the warning track, felt for the wall and leaped to rob Mookie Betts of a potential go-ahead, three-run homer in the sixth inning Tuesday night.

When Suwinski tried to do the same two innings later, however, Chris Taylor left him empty-handed.

In a back-and-forth contest at PNC Park — the Dodgers scored two runs early, then gave up seven, then rallied against a surging Pittsburgh team that had won seven straight — it was Taylor's blast in the eighth inning that decided it, a three-run bomb that sailed over Suwinski's head and lifted the Dodgers to an 8-7 win.

"To go out there and find a way," manager Dave Roberts said, "very good team win."

Added Taylor: "Felt like we scratched and clawed our way back into this one. That's what we used to do so well."

Early on, the Dodgers (13-11) appeared headed toward another dispiriting loss.

Their short-handed lineup, which was without Max Muncy (paternity leave) and J.D. Martinez (back discomfort), went quiet after a two-run bloop double from Miguel Vargas in the first.

Noah Syndergaard, meanwhile, dug them a giant hole with a four-inning, seven-run start in which he gave up nine hits and three steals, struck out only two and yielded a three-run homer to Andrew McCutchen in the fourth that gave the Pirates a 7-2 lead.

"I didn't really do much to help the team tonight," Syndergaard said.

The Dodgers, however, responded at the plate.

After Freddie Freeman made it 7-3 with an infield single in the fifth, rookies James Outman, Vargas and Michael Busch keyed a two-run rally in the sixth.

Outman led off with a double, one of his two on the night. Vargas drew a walk, one of three times he reached base.

Then Busch, making his major league debut as the designated hitter, roped a two-strike slider from Pirates starter Johan Oviedo up the middle for his first hit and RBI, scoring one run and setting up Austin Barnes for a sacrifice fly two batters later.

"You kind of get lost in the moment in a way," Busch said. "You're not trying to do too much; we were down four or five runs. Just trying to pass it to the next guy and get us some runs and try to put a good at-bat together."

Betts almost put the Dodgers in front with two outs in the inning, only to watch Suwinski rob him in what Roberts acknowledged was a "deflating" moment.

"But," he added, "knowing we still had three at-bats left, we still felt pretty good about it."

Indeed, after Vargas singled and Busch walked in the eighth, Taylor completed the comeback with his slump-busting blast.

Amid a five-for-45 start to the season, Taylor wasn't expecting Tuesday to be the day he found a rhythm with his swing.

He hit on Monday's day off in search of answers but couldn't find a feel that translated to the game. Even during pregame batting practice, "I was kind of grinding," he said.

So, Taylor said he instead "tried to keep it as simple as I can."

That worked in the fifth inning, when he lined a single for his first hit in a week. Then he caught a break in the seventh, dropping a bloop into right that aided the two-run rally.

By the time he came up in the eighth, the pressure of his slow start had begun to ease. "Once you start getting hits, you sort of relax a little bit," Taylor said. "The tension frees up and everything slows down."

Thus, when Pirates reliever Colin Holderman threw a 2-and-0 sinker belt-high on the inner half, Taylor's mind wasn't clouded by swing thoughts and mechanical cues. He simply planted his front foot, lashed his barrel at the ball and watched his blast sail through a crisp Pittsburgh night, well beyond Suwinski's reach.

"I don't think my swing was any different than it had been," Taylor said. "Sometimes you put so much pressure and there's just that added tension, because you want to get a hit so bad, you want to come through so bad. It's hard to perform that way."

"Once you get a hit everything just kind of eases," he added. "It kind of reminds you you're not in as deep a hole as you think you are."

The same can be said of the Dodgers, who have won four of five following a two-week slide that dropped them below .500.

Facing a five-run deficit, their inconsistent lineup battled back.

"To be able to do that, kind of work one inning at a time, get some baserunners then come up in some big spots," Taylor said, "that felt good."

And to close out the victory, a struggling bullpen shined with five scoreless innings — including a bases-loaded escape by Caleb Ferguson in the eighth, and a first career save from Shelby Miller in the ninth.

"It's big, considering where we were at after the fourth inning, to go out there and find a way," Roberts said. "There were a lot of good things that happened tonight."

This Angel loves being in outfield

Ward, who had two hits and an RBI in win, has made stellar plays in the field this year.

ANGELS 5
OAKLAND 3

By Sarah Valenzuela

LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

ANGELS starter Griffin Canning gave up four hits and three runs in five innings, striking out seven.

It's not uncommon for players to keep baseballs from games they've played. Pitchers keep the one that represents their first strikeout, batters keep their first hits. Left fielder Taylor Ward took home another kind of milestone baseball this week.

Ward kept the ball of the would-be grand slam he robbed from Shane Langeliers and the Oakland Athletics on Monday night. The baseball was still in his locker Tuesday, the Angels' second game of the series.

"It kind of just all happened so fast that there wasn't really much time to think, judge or do anything like that," Ward said before Tuesday's game, "it was more just go and catch it."

Ward joined Mike Trout as the two Angels who have robbed a grand slam since 2004, per Sports Info Solutions.

As the leadoff hitter in Tuesday's game, Ward went two for four with an RBI, joining Brandon Drury, Luis Rengifo and Gio Urshela as Angels who drove in at least one run in the team's 5-3 win over the A's. Griffin Canning pitched five innings, giving up three earned runs on four hits and two walks. He and struck out seven. Carlos Estévez completed a five-out save.

Though no dramatic plays were needed of Ward on Tuesday, he has made quite a few of them this season. It's been the result of the work he has put in this year to be keenly aware of the outfield wall. He has set out to make that kind of home run-robbing play this season.

"For me, really once the season ended last year I wanted to evaluate my deficiencies, I guess you could say," Ward said earlier in the season. "Still just always getting better with the wall and knowing where the wall was. With the injury last year, that really stunned my perception of what I need to work on."

Ward hurt his shoulder and neck during a game May 20 against the A's last season after crashing into the right-field wall while making a catch. The issue did not force him to the injured list, but it's not something he's forgotten.

"[Familiarity with the wall] is still at the top of my list and probably always will be," he continued. "I want to be able to take home runs away. I want to be able to do all these things."

Ward got that first home run robbery 23 games into the regular season. The catch is an obvious memorable moment for him. He also made a catch in Boston on April 14 that had a 25% catch probability.

"He doesn't take a day off in the outfield working pregame and it's showing," Trout said. "He's making big plays for us. He's making hard plays look routine. It's fun to watch."

Another of Ward's favorite plays this season occurred April 8 in foul territory, during which he secured an out on the Blue Jays' Brandon Belt, with Tyler Anderson on the mound that game.

Ward ranks among some of baseball's best outfielders this season, based on Baseball Savant's Outs Above Average. OAA is a range-based metric, defined by Baseball Savant as "the cumulative effect of all individual plays a fielder has been credited or debited with ... that accounts for the number of plays made and the difficulty of them."

Ward ranks seventh on that leaderboard with an OAA of two.

There's still a long way to go in this season for the Angels. Tuesday's game was just their 24th. But if Ward keeps up his defensive success, he could find himself in serious Gold Glove conversations.

"He's made some really fine defensive plays," manager Phil Nevin said before Tuesday's game. "I think he's improved his game quite a bit. ... I like the way that he plays left field. I think he's in that discussion of some of the best defensive outfielders out there."

It's personal for OCSC owner

KEVIN BAXTER
ON SOCCER

James Keston tried to be diplomatic. He stayed (mostly) on the high road and said all the right things.

But you didn't have to scratch too far below the surface to get him to acknowledge Wednesday's U.S. Open Cup match in Portland is more than just a game for him.

Keston owns the Orange County Soccer Club, champion of the second-tier USL Championship in 2021, which is in Oregon to play the Timbers, the MLS team one could argue was stolen from him.

Now Keston wants justice. Or revenge.

He'll settle, however, for a win.

"It certainly has a very strong sense of accomplishment to be able to beat this team in their house in front of what I expect will be a respectable crowd," he said last week, pausing frequently and choosing his words carefully. "That would certainly be a mark of achievement for me that would stand above most others."

First the history.

In 2007, Keston said, he and his father, Michael, had the exclusive rights to put an MLS expansion franchise in Portland. To do that, they would need a place to play, and the Kestons and the league quickly settled on the city's 90-year-old minor league baseball stadium. Problem was the baseball team, along with Portland's second-tier soccer club, recently had been purchased by businessman Merritt Paulson and his father, Henry, the U.S. treasury secretary and former chief executive of Goldman Sachs.

The Paulsons also had MLS ambitions, so they simply sat in their ballpark and waited.

"We wanted to sit down and talk," Keston said. "They were not so inclined and waited until our exclusivity ran out and then obviously went ahead and made the deal."

So the Kestons, who manage a large real estate company that includes an investment component, quickly changed their focus to Seattle and got "pretty near the finish line" before the real estate market bottomed out, sinking the deal. That allowed Joe Roth, the former chairman of 20th Century Fox and Disney Studios, to step in and negotiate terms Keston said were nearly identical to the ones he proposed.

The Timbers have gone on to play in two MLS Cups, winning one. The Sounders have done even better, winning two MLS Cups, four U.S. Open Cups, a Supporters' Shield and the CONCACAF Champions League.

Both teams' values have skyrocketed as well. Paulson said he paid between $32 million and $34 million for the Timbers, a team Forbes estimates is now worth $650 million. Seattle's expansion fee was approximately $30 million; the team is worth 22 times that now.

Keston, meanwhile, paid $5 million to buy the Orange County Blues in September 2016, rebranding the team as the Orange County Soccer Club and moving it, a year later, to Championship Stadium in the Orange County Great Park. And though he's clearly disappointed at missing out on MLS, he's not unhappy with the way things worked out.

"I would not trade the experiences I've had with OCSC for anything," he said. "Being involved in a league like MLS, that would have been a very different experience. And, I think for me, a far less personal experience.

"The thing that excited me most about soccer — still does — is American players, American player development. USL has a place that's absolutely necessary in making sure that we are doing this right."

Keston and Oliver Wyss, OCSC's general manager, have made their mark by signing teenage defender Kobi Henry out of Inter Miami's academy and sending him, two years later, to Stade de Reims in the French first division. This year's team includes teenagers Bryce Jamison and Korede Osundina, who both played at the Barca Residency Academy in Arizona.

"These are guys that we're going to be seeing on a major stage in a couple years. And we don't want it to be one of them, or two of them. We want it to be 20 or 30 of them," Keston said.

That work hasn't produced much on the field as of late; since winning the USL Championship title in 2021, Orange County is 8-17-16 after Saturday's 2-1 loss to the Birmingham Legion. But all that would be forgiven Wednesday with a win that would eliminate Paulson and the Timbers from the U.S. Open Cup.

"We had an exclusive negotiating right in Portland. We were very interested. It was our top choice," Keston said. "And Mr. Paulson and his team refused to meet with us. It certainly was a frustration then and now you never know how history could have gone.

"It certainly puts a little chip on my shoulder. This is one that would be very, very satisfying to win."

You have read the latest installment of On Soccer with Kevin Baxter. The weekly column goes behind the scenes and shines a spotlight on unique stories. Look for it every Tuesday morning at latimes.com/soccer. Listen to Baxter on this week's episode of the "Corner of the Galaxy" podcast.

LAFC, Union get MLS Cup rematch

By Kevin Baxter

It's been nearly six months since LAFC and the Philadelphia Union met in an epic MLS Cup final decided on penalty kicks. And a lot has happened since.

LAFC, the winner that day, remains unbeaten eight games into the new MLS season while the Union have lost more games than they have won. But the teams will be even when they meet again Wednesday night in Chester, Pa., in the first game of a two-leg CONCACAF Champions League semifinal.

The second leg will take place Tuesday night at BMO Stadium, with the winner decided by the aggregate score over the two matches.

Both teams have posted three shutouts in four games to win their round-of-16 and quarterfinal matchups, LAFC eliminating Alajuelense of Costa Rica and MLS rival Vancouver. Philadelphia beat Alianza of El Salvador and Mexico's Atlas.

Including the MLS Cup final, LAFC and the Union have met five times since 2018, with the last four games ending in a draw.

"They're a fantastic club and team who are, I think, one of the best teams in the league as far as playing in a consistent manner and having a clear style and implementing that," LAFC coach Steve Cherundolo said of the Union. "So we certainly have our work cut out for us."

Although the trip is LAFC's second-longest of the season — about a half-hour shorter than its flight to Costa Rica to open CCL play last month — the team didn't leave Los Angeles until Tuesday afternoon, crossing four time zones to arrive in Philadelphia less than 24 hours before Wednesday's kickoff. That's been LAFC's standard travel procedure since Cherundolo took over as coach last season.

"Preparing out of your own facility and sleeping in your own bed is always better than away from home," he said.

This is the second time in four seasons that LAFC has made it to the semifinals of the region's most prestigious club competition. In 2020, it reached the final, in which it lost to Tigres of Mexico's Liga MX. The Union played in the CCL semifinals a year later, losing to Mexico's Club América.

NHL PLAYOFF ROUNDUP

Islanders pounce on mistakes, push it to Game 6

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brock Nelson scored by knocking in an airborne puck that had bounced off the face of Carolina's Sebastian Aho, and the New York Islanders added two goals that came off turnovers, beating the host Hurricanes 3-2 on Tuesday night and extending their first-round playoff series.

The Islanders trailed 3-1 in the best-of-seven series, but staved off elimination by scoring the game's first two goals and never trailing while playing in front of a rowdy crowd eager to see the Hurricanes become the first team to advance to this year's second round.

Nelson's goal stood out. He swung at the puck after it had struck Aho near the mouth and was falling to the ice, batting it past Antti Raanta near the post early in the second period for a wild score.

Pierre Engvall scored midway through the first period after getting a one-on-one shot at Raanta off Carolina's failed clear, while Mathew Barzal took a turnover by Martin Necas to beat Raanta late in the second for the 3-1 lead.

Ilya Sorokin weathered a strong first period from Carolina to finish with 34 saves as New York sent the series back to UBS Arena for Friday's Game 6.

Islanders 3, Hurricanes 2

N.Y. Islanders	1	2	0	– 3
Carolina	0	1	1	– 2

FIRST PERIOD: 1. N.Y. Islanders, Engvall 1 (Nelson), 10:27. **Penalties**—MacEachern, CAR (Slashing), 2:19. Romanov, N.Y.I (Interference), 17:32.

SECOND PERIOD: 2. N.Y. Islanders, Nelson 2 (Engvall, Palmieri), 3:16. 3. Car., Stastny 2 (Puljujarvi, Chatfield), 13:10. 4. N.Y. Islanders, Barzal 2 (Horvat), 18:05. **Penalties**—Clutterbuck, N.Y.I (Kneeing), 5:45. Staal, CAR (Tripping), 16:47. Dobson, N.Y.I (Interference), 17:07.

THIRD PERIOD: 5. Car., Aho 3 (Jarvis, Kotkaniemi), 10:28. **Penalties**—Aho, N.Y.I (Holding), 11:51. Aho, CAR (High Sticking), 13:09.

SHOTS ON GOAL: N.Y. Islanders 5-12-5—22. Car. 11-13-12—36. Power-play conversions—N.Y. Islanders 0 of 3. Car. 0 of 4.

GOALIES: N.Y. Islanders, Sorokin 2-3-0 (36 shots-34 saves). Car., Raanta 3-2-0 (22-19). Att—18,680 (18,680). T—2:40.

at Dallas 4, Minnesota 0: Tyler Seguin and Jason Robertson each had a power-play goal and an assist, and Roope Hintz had three assists for the second consecutive game as the Stars took a 3-2 series lead.

Stars 4, Wild 0

Minnesota	0	0	0	– 0
Dallas	2	1	1	– 4

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Dal., Seguin 4 (Robertson, Hintz), 2:22 (pp). 2. Dal., Robertson 2 (Heiskanen, Hintz), 11:04 (pp). **Penalties**—Min. bench, served by Reaves (Kneeing), 2:14. Foligno, MIN (Misconduct), 2:14. Heiskanen, DAL (Interference), 4:56. Middleton, MIN (Cross Checking), 10:47.

SECOND PERIOD: 3. Dal., Marchment 1 (Hintz, Seguin), 1:19. **Penalties**—Zuccarello, MIN (Tripping), 2:06. Domi, DAL (Cross Checking), 4:38. Suter, DAL (Holding), 7:57. Dumba, MIN (Roughing), 10:38. Harley, DAL (Roughing), 10:38. Lindell, DAL (Interference), 14:52.

THIRD PERIOD: 4. Dal., Dellandrea 1 (Domi, Suter), 16:03 (en). **Penalties**—Nyquist, MIN (Tripping), 2:12. Hartman, MIN (Roughing), 4:38. Dellandrea, DAL (Unsportsmanlike Conduct), 4:38. Boldy, MIN (Cross Checking), 18:41. Kiviranta, DAL (Unsportsmanlike Conduct), 18:41.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Min. 5-13-9—27. Dal. 11-7-7—25. Power-play conversions—Min. 0 of 3. Dal. 2 of 6.

GOALIES: Min., Gustavsson 2-2-0 (24 shots-21 saves). Dal., Oettinger 3-2-0 (27-27). Att—18,532 (18,532). T—2:29.

Jake Oettinger had 27 saves in his second career playoff shutout. That included stopping nine shots when the Wild had back-to-back power plays in the second period.

Seguin's fourth power-play goal of the series came only 2:22 into the game, eight seconds after Wild forward Marcus Foligno's five-minute major penalty and game misconduct for a knee-on-knee hit on Radek Faksa.

The Stars will try to close out the first-round playoff series Friday night in Game 6 at Minnesota.

Etc.

Colorado Avalanche defenseman Cale Makar was suspended for Wednesday's Game 5 for his hit on the Seattle Kraken's Jared McCann in Game 4. The series is tied 2-2. ... The Ducks named Matt McIlvane coach of the San Diego Gulls, the club's AHL affiliate.

Kings routed in Game 5, face brink

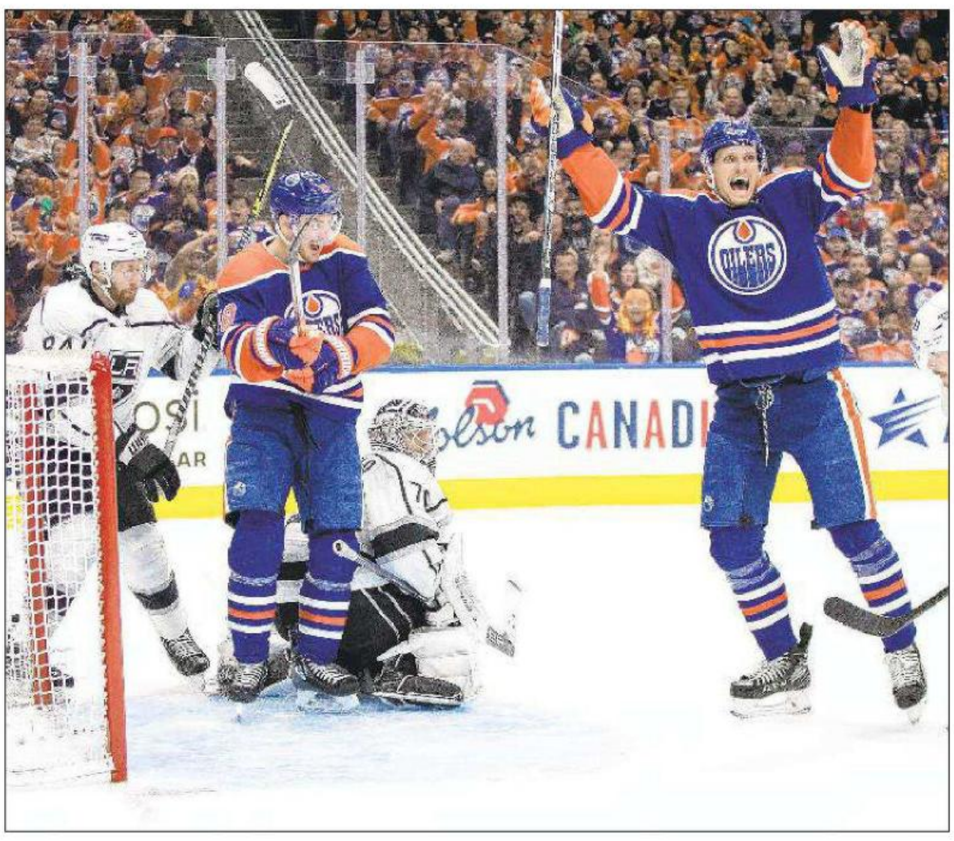
[**Elliott,** from B12] Edmonton's scoring depth, size and skill. The Oilers scored twice on the power play to extend their success to eight for 14 in the series, and they sprinted beyond the Kings' reach with a two-goal second period that turned a 3-2 nailbiter into a 5-2 laugher.

After repeatedly saying Tuesday morning that they wanted to play five-on-five as much as possible, the Kings sabotaged that plan when Carl Grundstrom took a hooking penalty at 6:12 of the first period. Edmonton cashed in on a shot by Evander Kane from the left circle at 8:08, the Oilers' 15th goal of the series but the first for which Leon Draisaitl was not on the ice.

Draisaitl didn't let that happen twice in a row. He took a pass from Connor McDavid and scored from close range as he fell to the ice to give the Oilers a 2-0 lead at 10:40. The Kings responded at 13:12, when Alex Iafallo converted the rebound of a shot by Adrian Kempe after Kopitar had made a good play to keep the puck in the zone. Kempe has scored at least one point in all five games of this series.

A minute later, the Oilers rebuilt a two-goal margin when defenseman Brett Kulak darted in from the blue line to snap a shot past Korpisalo. But the Kings cut that lead to 3-2 when Kempe got behind the defense and unleashed a wrist shot that eluded goalie Stuart Skinner at 17:35.

"Coming in at 3-2, it felt like it was anybody's game," Kopitar said. "I just think we've got to play more assertive right from the start. It's a start that we didn't want tonight and didn't need. More desperate and a lot more assertive."



JASON FRANSON Associated Press

THE OILERS' Zach Hyman, second from left, and Nick Bjugstad, right, celebrate a second-period score on Kings goalie Joonas Korpisalo, who was chased early.

The second period was sleepy, by comparison, until the Oilers woke up the crowd by extending their lead to 4-2 when Nick Bjugstad tipped a shot by Cody Ceci. That was the last shot faced by Korpisalo, who was replaced by Copley after stopping 15 of 19 shots. The appearance was the first in the Stanley Cup playoffs for Copley, a journeyman who saved the Kings' season after Cal Petersen and Quick stumbled.

Copley couldn't be blamed for Edmonton's fifth goal, scored during a power play, when a shot by Evan Bouchard struck Zach Hyman's chin and caromed into the net at 15:47. The rest was bookkeeping for the Kings, a matter of not getting hurt and getting mentally ready for what might be their season finale.

The Kings were scheduled to travel back to Los Angeles after the game, instead of staying over, as they had done after the first two games. They will have time to heal their bodies and learn from all that went wrong Tuesday and figure out how to fix a mountain of problems by Saturday.

"We'll look at what we could have done better, get a couple days of rest," Kempe said. "Obviously, we've got to win a game at home and hopefully come back here for Game 7. Just think of the next game now and move forward."

At the moment, forward consists of one game.

OILERS 6, KINGS 3

KINGS	2	0	1	– 3
Edmonton	3	2	1	– 6

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Edm., Kane 3 (Nurse, Ekholm), 8:08 (pp). 2. Edm., Draisaitl 6 (Ekholm, McDavid), 10:40. 3. KINGS, Iafallo 3 (Kempe, Kopitar), 13:12. 4. Edm., Kulak 1 (Foegele, McLeod), 14:12. 5. KINGS, Kempe 4 (Grundstrom, Doughty), 17:35. **Penalty**—Grundstrom, KINGS (Hooking), 6:12.

SECOND PERIOD: 6. Edm., Bjugstad 1 (Nurse, Ceci), 11:49. 7. Edm., Hyman 2 (McDavid, Bouchard), 15:47 (pp). **Penalty**—Fiala, KINGS (Tripping), 13:56.

THIRD PERIOD: 8. Edm., Bjugstad 2 (Nugent-Hopkins), 4:26. 9. KINGS, Byfield 1 (Fiala, Vilardi), 6:33. **Penalties**—Nurse, EDM (Cross Checking), 0:29. Durzi, KINGS (Cross Checking), 14:36. Danault, KINGS (Misconduct), 18:13. Foegele, EDM (Misconduct), 18:13.

SHOTS ON GOAL: KINGS 12-7-9—28. Edm. 13-8-6—27. Power-play conversions—KINGS 0 of 1. Edm. 2 of 3.

GOALIES: KINGS, Korpisalo 2-3-0 (19 shots-15 saves), KINGS, Copley 0-0-0 (8-6). Edm., Skinner 2-2-0 (28-25). Att—18,347 (18,641). T—2:28.

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Panthers reach consensus on No. 1 pick

WIRE REPORTS

Carolina Panthers coach **Frank Reich** said he and general manager **Scott Fitterer** have agreed on which quarterback the team will select with the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft.

But Reich said the team won't announce who that is until Thursday night, when the draft begins in Kansas City, Mo.

The Panthers are choosing among Alabama's **Bryce Young**, Ohio State's **C.J. Stroud**, Kentucky's **Will Levis** and Florida's **Anthony Richardson**.

Young, a former Santa Ana Mater Dei standout who won the 2021 Heisman Trophy with the Crimson Tide, remains the overwhelming favorite to be the No. 1 choice, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

Quarterback **Aaron Rodgers**, who is heading to the New York Jets in a trade reached Monday, posted a farewell to Green Bay on Instagram. The post was accompanied by 10 photos from his Packers tenure.

The Jets' big move brings the four-time most valuable player to a team that has the NFL's longest postseason drought at 12 years.

The Cincinnati Bengals exercised the fifth-year contract option for star quarterback **Joe Burrow** as they move toward signing him to a long-term deal.

ETC.

Crocker to face coaching choice

Matt Crocker, who was introduced by the U.S. Soccer Federation as the new sporting director, said he intends to focus on leadership and style of play in his search for a U.S. men's soccer coach, but he deflected questions about whether he will consider retaining **Gregg Berhalter**.

"I intend to follow up with a number of candidates," Crocker said.

Crocker will start the job Aug. 2 but will begin the search process immediately. The job has been uncertain since Berhalter was pushed aside during an investigation that developed from a feud with U.S. player **Gio Reyna's** family.

Crocker has been director of football for English Premier League team Southampton since February 2020. He will leave at the end of the season.

Taty Castellanos, a former MLS scoring leader, scored four times in Girona's 4-2 home win over Madrid in the Spanish league. ... D.C. United defender **Mohanad Jeahze** was in custody in Sweden on suspicion of two counts of assault, Swedish prosecutors said. ... Fox will broadcast 29 of 64 Women's World Cup games from Australia and New Zealand this summer on its main network.

Notre Dame quarterback **Tyler Buchner** said he will enter his name in the transfer portal but did not rule out remaining with the Fighting Irish. He has been competing with Wake Forest transfer **Sam Hartman** for the starting job. ... Former Oregon State starting quarterback **Chance Nolan** is transferring to Texas Christian. ... Guard **Te-Hina Paopao**, a three-time All-Pac-12 Conference choice at Oregon, is joining South Carolina's women's basketball team.

Jockey **Corey Nakatani** and horses Arrogate, California Chrome and Songbird were elected to the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in the contemporary category. Jockey **Fernando Toro** was elected via the historic review committee. **John W. Hanes II**, **Leonard W. Jerome** and **Stella F. Thayer** were selected as Pillars of the Turf. The class will be enshrined Aug. 4 in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

European lawmakers urged the International Olympic Committee to exclude Russian and Belarusian athletes from the 2024 Paris Games rather than keep seeking ways to let them compete as neutrals in international sport.

U.S. Olympic long jumper **Tara Davis-Woodhall** served a one-month suspension and had her national indoor title stripped after testing positive this year for the psychoactive compound found in marijuana, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency announced.

TENNIS RESULTS

$8.5-MILLION MUTUAL MADRID OPEN
At Madrid
Surface: Red clay

WOMEN'S SINGLES (first round)—Jule Niemeier, Germany, d. Wang Xinyu, China, 6-4, 6-2; Ana Bogdan, Romania, d. Anna Bondar, Hungary, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (2); Sorana Cirstea, Romania, d. Lauren Davis, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; Elisabetta Cocciaretto, Italy, d. Barbora Strycova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 7-6 (5); Karolina Muchova, Czech Republic, d. Anett Kontaveit, Estonia, 6-2, 6-2; Maryna Zanevska, Belgium, d. Sofia Kenin, 6-0, 6-3; Rebecca Marino, Canada, d. Zhu Lin, China, 7-6 (1), 6-4; Linda Fruhvirtova, Czech Republic, d. Katie Volynets, 6-3, 7-5; Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, d. Claire Liu, United States, 6-4, 6-4.

NHL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE FIRST ROUND

WESTERN CONFERENCE

P1 Vegas vs. WC2 Winnipeg
Golden Knights lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Winnipeg 5, Vegas 1
Gm 2	Vegas 5, Winnipeg 2
Gm 3	Vegas 5, Winnipeg 4 (2OT)
Gm 4	Vegas 4, Winnipeg 2
Gm 5	Thursday at Vegas, 7
Gm 6	Saturday at Winn., TBD*
Gm 7	Monday at Vegas, TBD*

P2 Edmonton vs. P3 KINGS
Oilers lead series 3-2

Gm 1	KINGS 4, Edmonton 3 (OT)
Gm 2	Edmonton 4, KINGS 2
Gm 3	KINGS 3, Edmonton 2 (OT)
Gm 4	Edmonton 5, KINGS 4 (OT)
Gm 5	Edmonton 6, KINGS 3
Gm 6	Saturday at Kings, TBD
Gm 7	Monday at Edm., TBD*

C1 Colorado vs. WC1 Seattle
Series tied 2-2

Gm 1	Seattle 3, Colorado 1
Gm 2	Colorado 3, Seattle 2
Gm 3	Colorado 6, Seattle 4
Gm 4	Seattle 3, Colorado 2 (OT)
Gm 5	Tonight at Colorado, 6:30
Gm 6	Friday at Seattle, TBD
Gm 7	Sunday at Colorado, TBD*

C2 Dallas vs. C3 Minnesota
Stars lead series 3-2

Gm 1	Minnesota 3, Dallas 2 (2OT)
Gm 2	Dallas 7, Minnesota 3
Gm 3	Minnesota 5, Dallas 1
Gm 4	Dallas 3, Minnesota 2
Gm 5	Dallas 4, Minnesota 0
Gm 6	Friday at Minnesota, TBD
Gm 7	Sunday at Dallas, TBD*

* if necessary

EASTERN CONFERENCE

A1 Boston vs. WC2 Florida
Bruins lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Boston 3, Florida 1
Gm 2	Florida 6, Boston 3
Gm 3	Boston 4, Florida 2
Gm 4	Boston 6, Florida 2
Gm 5	Tonight at Boston, 4
Gm 6	Friday at Florida, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Boston, TBD*

A2 Toronto vs. A3 Tampa Bay
Maple Leafs lead series 3-1

Gm 1	Tampa Bay 7, Toronto 3
Gm 2	Toronto 7, Tampa Bay 2
Gm 3	Toronto 4, T. Bay 3 (OT)
Gm 4	Toronto 5, T. Bay 4 (OT)
Gm 5	Thursday at Toronto, 4
Gm 6	Sat. at Tampa Bay, TBD*
Gm 7	Monday at Toronto, TBD*

M1 Carolina vs. WC1 Islanders
Hurricanes lead series 3-2

Gm 1	Carolina 2, Islanders 1
Gm 2	Carolina 4, Islanders 3 (OT)
Gm 3	Islanders 5, Carolina 1
Gm 4	Carolina 5, Islanders 2
Gm 5	Islanders 3, Carolina 2
Gm 6	Friday at New York, TBD*
Gm 7	Sunday at Carolina, TBD*

M2 New Jersey vs. M3 Rangers
Series tied 2-2

Gm 1	Rangers 5, New Jersey 1
Gm 2	Rangers 5, New Jersey 1
Gm 3	N. Jersey 2, Rangers 1 (OT)
Gm 4	New Jersey 3, Rangers 1
Gm 5	Thurs. at New Jersey, 4:30
Gm 6	Saturday at N.Y., TBD
Gm 7	Monday at N.J., TBD*

All times PDT, unless noted

PRO CALENDAR

	WED 26	THU 27	FRI 28	SAT 29	SUN 30
DODGERS	at Pittsburgh 3:30 SNLA	at Pittsburgh 9:30 a.m. SNLA	ST. LOUIS 7 Apple TV+	ST. LOUIS 6 SNLA, FS1	ST. LOUIS 1 SNLA
ANGELS	OAKLAND 6:30 BSW	OAKLAND 1 BSW	at Milwaukee 5 BSW	at Milwaukee 4 BSW	at Milwaukee 11 a.m. BSW
LAKERS	at Memphis* 4:30 SpecSN, TNT		MEMPHIS* (if necessary) TBD		at Memphis* (if necessary) TBD
KINGS				EDMONTON* TBD	
GALAXY				at Orlando 4:30 Apple TV	
LAFC	at Phila.** 6 FS1				
ANGEL CITY				at Portland 7:30 Paramount+	

Shade denotes home game. *Playoffs **CONCACAF Champions League

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASEBALL		
10 a.m.	New York Yankees at Minnesota	**TV:** MLB
1 p.m.	Kansas City at Arizona (joined in progress)	**TV:** MLB
3:30 p.m.	Dodgers at Pittsburgh	**TV:** SNLA **R:** 570, 1020
4:30 p.m.	San Diego at Chicago Cubs	**TV:** MLB
6:30 p.m.	Oakland at Angels	**TV:** BSW **R:** 830, 1220
7:30 p.m.	St. Louis at San Francisco (joined in progress)	**TV:** MLB
BASKETBALL: NBA PLAYOFFS, FIRST ROUND		
4 p.m.	New York at Cleveland, Game 5	**TV:** NBA
4:30 p.m.	Lakers at Memphis, Game 5	**TV:** SpecSN, TNT **R:** 710, 1330
6:30 p.m.	Miami at Milwaukee, Game 5	**TV:** NBA
7 p.m.	Golden State at Sacramento, Game 5	**TV:** TNT
COLLEGE BEACH VOLLEYBALL: PAC-12 TOURNAMENT		
8:30 a.m.	Oregon vs. Utah	**TV:** Pac-12, Pac-12LA
10:15 a.m.	Arizona vs. USC	**TV:** Pac-12, Pac-12LA
Noon	Arizona State vs. California	**TV:** Pac-12, Pac-12LA
1:45 p.m.	Washington vs. Stanford	**TV:** Pac-12, Pac-12LA
3:30 p.m.	UCLA vs. TBA	**TV:** Pac-12, Pac-12LA
5:15 p.m.	Teams TBA	**TV:** Pac-12, Pac-12LA
COLLEGE WOMEN'S LACROSSE: ACC TOURNAMENT		
8 a.m.	Duke vs. Boston College	**TV:** ACC
10:30 a.m.	Notre Dame vs. Virginia	**TV:** ACC
1 p.m.	Virginia Tech vs. Syracuse	**TV:** ACC
3:30 p.m.	Clemson vs. North Carolina	**TV:** ACC
COLLEGE SOFTBALL		
3 p.m.	Iowa State at Iowa	**TV:** Big Ten
4 p.m.	Mercer at Georgia	**TV:** SEC
GOLF		
9 p.m.	DP World Tour, Korea Championship, first round	**TV:** Golf
HOCKEY: STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS, FIRST ROUND		
4 p.m.	Florida at Boston, Game 5	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
6:30 p.m.	Seattle at Colorado, Game 5	**TV:** ESPN
SOCCER		
10:30 a.m.	Spain, Mallorca at Atletico de Madrid	**TV:** ESPND
1 p.m.	Spain, Barcelona at Rayo Vallecano	**TV:** ESPND
6 p.m.	CONCACAF Champions League, Philadelphia vs. LAFC	**TV:** FS1
TENNIS		
10 a.m.	Madrid Open, early rounds	**TV:** Tennis
2 a.m. (Thu.)	Madrid Open, early rounds	**TV:** Tennis

Los Angeles Times

SPORTS

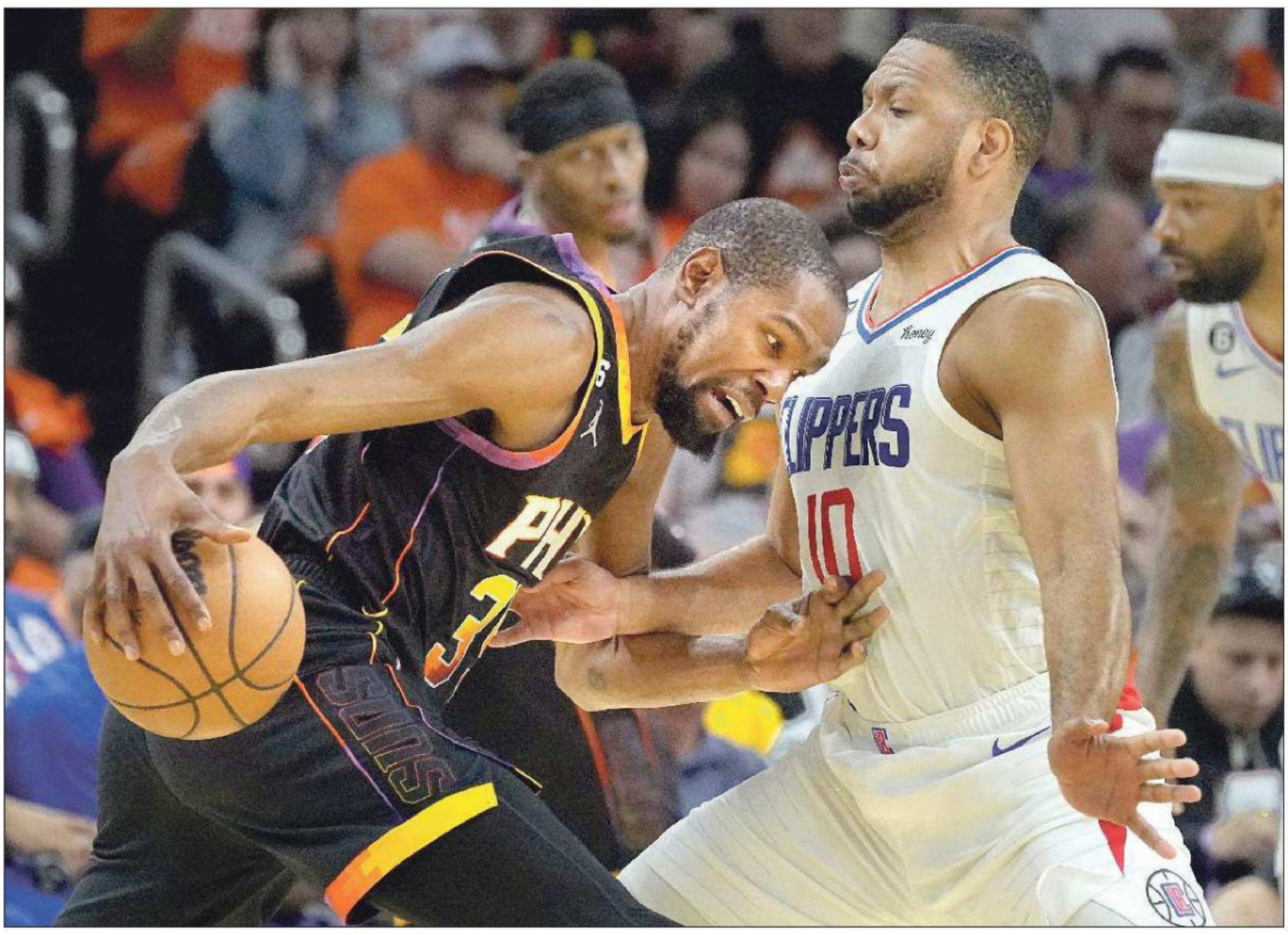
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

†††

NBA PLAYOFFS :: FIRST ROUND

PHOENIX 136, CLIPPERS 130

SUNS WIN SERIES 4-1



MATT YORK Associated Press

KEVIN DURANT (31 points) and the Suns put up 50 points against Eric Gordon and the Clippers in the third quarter of Game 5, rallying Phoenix from a halftime hole and opening a 17-point lead. A dramatic Clippers comeback in the fourth came up short.

SUNSET FOR SEASON

Clippers follow their stars’ exit as late rally can’t save series from end

By Andrew Greif

PHOENIX — Heads down, walking past fans in free orange T-shirts, the Clippers retreated to their locker room underneath Footprint Center’s stands knowing precisely where their season ended.

Then they boarded a short flight to Los Angeles to begin a long offseason reserved for pinpointing how, exactly, this season’s championship aspirations went awry long before Tuesday’s final game.

With Kawhi Leonard and Paul George healthy, the Clippers began this season with hopes of establishing a franchise first: advancing to their first Finals and claiming their first championship. But with sprained right knees sidelining George the entire postseason and Leonard the last three games of this series, the Clippers could not advance past even the first round, losing to the Phoenix Suns 136-130 in Game 5.

Injuries were at the root of the Clippers’ undoing again, coach Tyronn Lue said, the element that will keep him wondering when he retreats to his house in Las Vegas.

“It’s always in the back of your mind, ‘what if?’ ” Lue said.

But even when Leonard and George were healthy and playing at all-NBA levels, the Clippers had difficulty finding a rhythm. Their defense cratered in late December, their offense endured droughts and they exited February’s All-Star break losers of five straight games.

Frustration built, and since January many

[See **Clippers,** B8]

LAKERS VS. MEMPHIS

GAME 5: TONIGHT AT MEMPHIS, 4:30 PDT, SPECSN, TNT

James owns his bear hug of Grizzlies

BILL PLASCHKE

Ignore the talk about the Lakers belonging to Anthony Davis, or being inspired by Austin Reaves, or riding Rui Hachimura.

Listen, instead, to a wordless scream directed into the face of courtside fans.

Hear the loud, sweaty smack of a fighting rebound torn from the arms of a Memphis Grizzly.

Feel the relentless elbowing rush to the basket in the throes of game-saving desperation.

C’mon, whom are we kidding here?

As all the above scenes illustrated on a night when greatness showed up dressed in grind and grit, the Lakers are LeBron James’ team, period.

They belong to nobody else. They are led by nobody else. They will go only as far as the ageless wonder will take them. They will survive for only as long as their relentless superstar survives.

Experience their clawing 117-111 overtime win against the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday night at a roaring Crypto.com Arena and understand.

The Lakers lead this first-round playoff series three games to one because of LeBron James. They eventually will win this duel and should be favored in the next round against either Golden State or Sacramento because of LeBron James.

It was written here last week that the Lakers are not a championship team, but if you believe in Monday night, then you’ll believe they are capable of all sorts of miracles with LeBron James.

He was asked later, where did you find the legs?

“I don’t know if I found legs, honestly,” he said with a weary smile.

Who knows where the fans found their breath? Who knows where the Grizzlies lost their will? Both things happened on a night when arguably history’s greatest basketball player took long strides toward becoming one of history’s greatest Lakers.

“These are moments that I love,” James said, and goodness, the city loved sharing in them.

[See **Plaschke,** B8]

WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

LeBRON JAMES scores in the last seconds of regulation to force overtime in Game 4.

Rams’ Snead well versed in not having firsts

He’s drafted some gems even without a Day 1 pick

By Gary Klein

Rams general manager Les Snead has a brief role in “Change the Equation,” a predraft video released by the Rams on Tuesday.

“We need a new formula,” Snead tells coach Sean McVay and defensive coordinator Raheem Morris while standing in front of a white board. “It’s time to get back to the lab.”

Not exactly an Oscar-caliber performance.

“I didn’t come away going, ‘Oooh, I got a career. I got a next chapter in Hollywood,’ ” Snead told reporters during a videoconference.

On Thursday, Snead will oversee his 12th draft for a team that is coming off a 5-12 season.

The Rams have 11 picks in the draft, which begins Thursday in Kansas City, Mo. For the seventh year in a row, the Rams do not have a first-round pick.

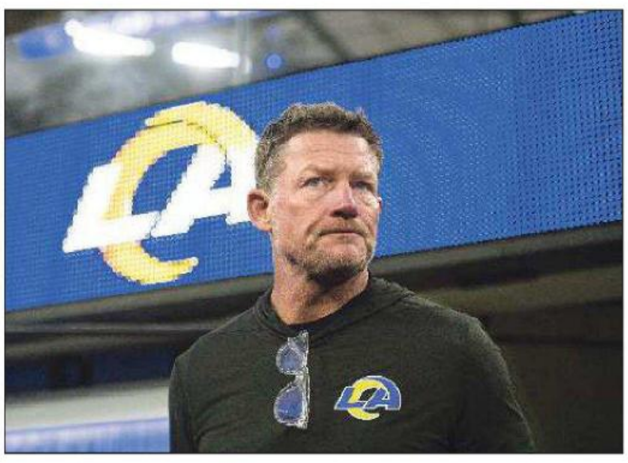
Snead drafted four All-Pros — kicker Greg Zuerlein, defensive lineman Aaron Donald, running back Todd Gurley and receiver Cooper Kupp — and the Rams have made two Super Bowl appearances during his tenure.

A look at Snead’s year-by-year history:

[See **Rams,** B7]

Teams to let it fly with quarterbacks

Sam Farmer provides his predictions and picks for Nos. 1-31, submitting his final NFL mock draft. **B7**



KYUSUNG GONG Associated Press

RAMS general manager Les Snead has built two rosters in L.A. that have reached the Super Bowl.

Kings go south up north, are put on brink

EDMONTON 6
KINGS 3

HELENE ELLIOTT

EDMONTON, Canada — If the Kings have any resilience left in their bruised and weary bodies, if they can figure out how to repair the gaping holes the Edmonton Oilers ripped open in their defense during the last two games of their Stanley Cup first-round playoff series, if they want to prolong a promising season, they have three days to find that resilience, those solutions, that fight.

For the second straight game, the Oilers revved up their offense to a level the Kings couldn’t match. The particulars are less important than the undeniable trend: Nick Bjugstad scored twice as the Oilers chased Kings goaltender Joonas Korpisalo to the bench in favor of Pheonix Copley in the second period and roared to a 6-3 victory Tuesday night at Rogers Place.

The Kings have until Saturday, when Game 6 will be played at Crypto.com Arena, to reflect, repair and regroup and try to extend their season to a seventh game Monday in Edmonton.

“That’s obviously not good enough. It wasn’t close to good enough,” Kings coach Todd McLellan said of his team's defensive effort. “It probably doesn’t get you a win in Game 2 of the regular season, so move on.”

Or move out.

The Oilers’ scoring spree — a strong follow-up to their 5-4 overtime comeback win in Game 4 — put the Kings one loss from the end of a season they thought would go long. They upgraded their skill by acquiring Kevin Fiala. They traded franchise legend Jonathan Quick and a first-round pick to acquire Korpisalo and Vladislav Gavrikov, both of whom can leave without compensation this summer. They didn’t make those moves to be eliminated in the first round by the Oilers for a second consecutive season.

“Certainly not the game we wanted to play tonight,” team captain Anze Kopitar said. “The result is what it is now, and we’re still going home. Obviously down 3-2, but we’re going to play a lot better in the next one.”

They have no choice.

The tenacity that served them so well early in the series and early on Tuesday has been worn down by

[See **Elliott,** B11]

DODGERS 8
PITTSBURGH 7

Taylor’s homer caps big rally

Eighth-inning blast helps L.A. rally from five runs down and stop the Pirates’ win streak at seven. **B10**

ANGELS 5
OAKLAND 3

Ward making strides in field

He goes two for four and drives in a run, but he’s taking pride in his improvements in the outfield. **B10**

He really wants to beat Timbers

For Orange County Soccer Club owner, matchup in U.S. Open Cup is a little bit of a grudge match. **B10**

Los Angeles Times E

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

RICARDO DEARATANHA Los Angeles Times

A life well laughed

Carol Burnett was built for comedy. She's the toast of a new NBC special.

By Robert Lloyd TELEVISION CRITIC

Carol Burnett turns 90 on Wednesday, and to mark the date, there's a television special, "Carol Burnett: 90 Years of Laughter + Love" (on NBC — not her old home network, CBS — before moving to Peacock). It's studded with stars, many of whom have professional or personal history with the guest of honor. Seated with best "chum" Julie Andrews, Burnett allows herself to be showered with the affection, spoken and sung, she's always generated. The title is apt: Who merely likes Burnett? It's love or nothing.

That Burnett means something to her fans on a personal level has something to do with her talent, of course, but it also has much to do with our perception of her as a goodhearted human — a feeling regularly expressed in the Q&A session that began each episode of "The Carol Burnett Show."

The facts of her life are widely known. She's written four memoirs; co-wrote a semi-autobiographical play, "Hollywood Arms," with her late daughter, actor Carrie Hamilton; sat for many, many interviews, including a recent spate of 90th-birthday talk show visits; and been the subject of an "American Masters" documentary, an episode of "Finding Your Roots" and a Little Golden Book. It's

[See **Burnett,** E3]

TRAE PATTON NBC

CHER, left, appears with Carol Burnett on NBC's celebration as the beloved comedian turns 90.

CNN host's fall from grace

Don Lemon was the news network's star until he started making headlines.

By Greg Braxton

The host of "CNN Tonight" had a cryptic message for viewers just before he signed off from his May 14, 2021, broadcast.

"This is the last night [of] 'CNN Tonight With Don Lemon,' anchor Don Lemon announced. "It's been really, really great ... but changes are coming, and I will fill you in."

The comments sparked a frenzy on social media. Was Lemon, one of the cable news network's biggest stars, saying goodbye? Was he going to one of its competitors?

The hubbub became so frantic that Lemon took to Twitter to defuse the situation, tweeting that he was not leaving CNN, just starting a new phase of his career. His prime-time show would be rebranded with a new title, "Don Lemon Tonight," and strike a more informal tone. He would often forgo wearing a tie and take a more casual approach in interviews.

He flashed his megawatt smile a few days later on May 17, when he appeared in his usual time slot. "Without any further ado, this is 'Don Lemon Tonight,' " he said. "Has a ring to it, doesn't it?"

But that dulcet sound is no more. Lemon's unceremonious exit from CNN on Monday, just hours after his shift as co-anchor of "CNN This Morning," is the culmination of his remarkably swift fall from grace at the company, where only two years ago his name alone was seen as enough to carry the network's nightly flagship.

"I am stunned," Lemon tweeted in response to the news, adding that he had been informed of his ouster by his agent. "After 17 years at CNN I would have

[See **Lemon,** E6]

Comics who mess with Texas

Can't Even Comedy, a touring show, brings L.A. stand-ups to small-town crowds in Lone Star State. **E3**

Comics **E4-5**
Puzzles **E4**

This art is actually meant to be touched

A 'sensory wall' with ceramic, textile and audio elements opens at Braille Institute.

By Deborah Vankin

You could say that Megan Whitmarsh and Carla Tome are particularly hands-on regarding their new public art project, which debuts Wednesday.

The artists, who are not blind, created a large sensory wall and companion mural at the Braille Institute Los Angeles. The commission is part of a three-year, $2-million renovation that the East Hollywood nonprofit is unveiling this week. The 104-year-old institution now has a state-of-the-art recording studio to create audio books for patrons, as well as a new teaching hub with iPads, laptops and Braille e-readers that offers workshops for using those and other devices.

The sensory wall — in the children's room at the Braille Institute's library — is the first of its kind in Los Angeles, a handmade, public artwork incorporating ceramics, textiles, musical instruments and prerecorded audio telling a story about Los Angeles that visitors are meant to interpret with their hands.

The wall traverses a cross-section of local terrain, including desert, mountain and ocean, and it depicts native plants, animals and local landmarks. There's a faux fur bunny, a ceramic coyote and raccoon. There are hanging succu-

[See **Wall,** E6]

FIRST PERSON

Harry put a song in mom's heart

RON GALELLA Ron Galella Collection via Getty Images

HARRY BELAFONTE, here in 1967, worked to better society. In 2013, he called for a new generation to speak up. Take a listen to those who responded. **E2**

My parents eagerly attended Belafonte's L.A. performances. One night: a surprise.

By Greg Braxton

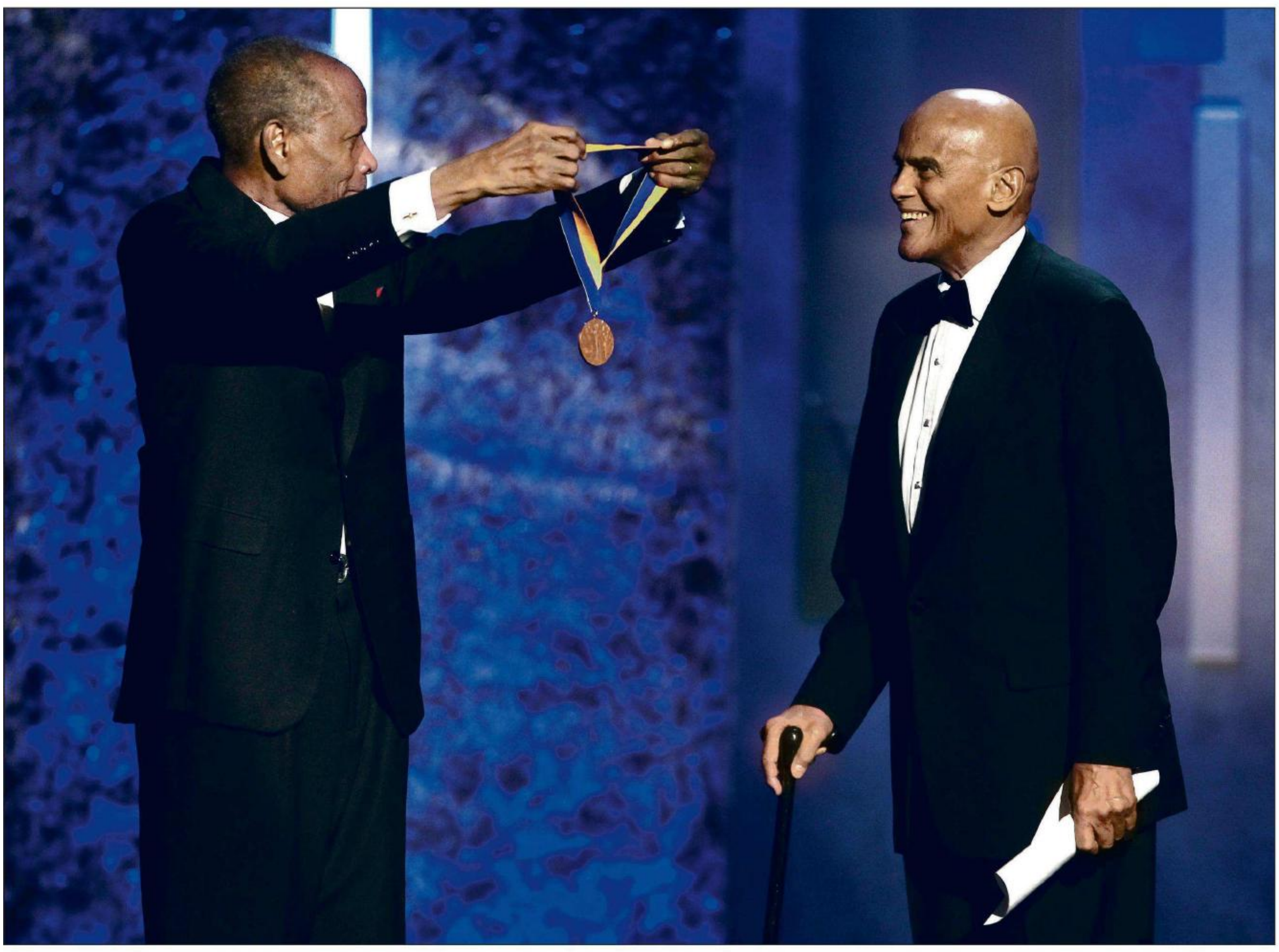
Harry Belafonte kissed my mother once. I don't believe she ever recovered.

Belafonte, who died Tuesday in New York, is being celebrated as a versatile entertainer and dedicated civil rights activist. He traveled the globe to care for poorer people, and his later years were marked by his candid political perspective and outspokenness.

But for me and my family, he will always be known by one moniker above all: King of the Greek Theatre.

From the 1950s into the

[See **Belafonte,** E2]



MATT SAYLES Invision/AP

SIDNEY POITIER, left, presents the Spingarn Medal to Harry Belafonte at the 44th NAACP Image Awards on Feb. 1, 2013.

Harry Belafonte's legacy of protest

The star once asked Black artists to push against gun violence — and they have.

By Kenan Draughorne

Harry Belafonte, the pop star who died Tuesday of congestive heart failure at 96 years old, helped bring calypso to the masses via his 1956 album "Calypso," which featured his unavoidable rendition of the traditional Jamaican song "Day-O (The Banana Boat Song)."

But more central to his mission was uplifting those around him, specifically Black people trapped in the same systems of oppression he faced growing up in New York and Jamaica.

Belafonte played a key role in the civil rights movement, fundraising with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and later helping to launch an early voter registration drive in Mississippi.

Years later in 1985, he organized a legion of A-list singers from Michael Jackson to Bob Dylan to record "We Are the World," the success of which sent millions of dollars in humanitarian aid to Africa.

In 2013, Belafonte was honored at the 44th NAACP Image Awards with the Spingarn Medal, the organization's award recognizing the achievements of Black individuals. The award has also been given to Langston Hughes, Duke Ellington and Oprah Winfrey, among others. After a heartwarming dedication from his friend Sidney Poitier, Belafonte spoke about the debate around gun reform, emphasizing that the groups of people who had suffered the most yet remained largely absent from the conversation.

"A river of blood that washes the streets of our nation flows mostly from the bodies of our Black children," Belafonte said. "Yet, as the great debate emerges on the question of the gun, white America discusses the constitutional issue of ownership, while no one speaks of the consequences of our racial carnage.

"The question is: Where is the raised voice of Black America? Why are we mute? Where are our leaders, our legislators? Where is the church?" he asked.

Barrier-breaking star dies at 96
The Emmy- and Tony-winning Belafonte paved way for Black stars. **A1**

He continued, echoing artist and activist Paul Robeson's quote that "'artists are the gatekeepers of truth. We are civilization's radical voice.'"

"Never in the history of Black America has there ever been such a harvest of truly gifted and powerful artists, as we witness today," he continued. "Yet, our nation hungers for their radical song. Let us not sit back silently..."

A new generation of Black artists seems to be rising to the task. Perhaps most notably, Kendrick Lamar in 2015 released his scorching album "To Pimp a Butterfly," which contained a rousing anthem for persevering through racial adversary in "Alright." Lamar won a Pulitzer Prize for the album "Damn" in 2018.

Noname, a Chicago rapper whose breezy wordplay put her on the map in the mid 2010s, formed Noname's Book Club to uplift the voices of Black and brown authors, and also sends more than 1,000 books a month to prisons across America. YG and Nipsey Hussle linked in 2016 for "FDT," which took aim at then-presidential candidate Donald Trump. And entertainers from Lil Baby to Kendrick Sampson stepped up in a big way during the 2020 protests after George Floyd was murdered by Minneapolis police, both by writing songs and leading marches.

Jamie Foxx was similarly inspired in 2013 when he was honored as the NAACP's Entertainer of the Year. He followed Belafonte's speech by saying how much the icon's words moved him.

"I was thinking about all the stuff I was going to say personally about myself, and I was going to be all about me, and how I did it, and how me and me and I, and I," Foxx said on stage. "And then you watch Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier come out, and you say to yourself, it's really not that big of a deal what you're doing just yet.

"I had so many things I wanted to say, but after watching and listening to Harry Belafonte speak, sometimes I feel like I failed a little bit in being caught up in what I do," he continued. "Maybe that's the young generation, and that's what it is. But I guarantee you, I'm going to work a whole lot harder, man."

Read Belafonte's full speech below.

"Let me start off by first saying, thank you, to the NAACP and the others, for the work you do and the path you're forging for us in these troubled times. The group most devastated by America's obsession with the gun is African Americans. Although making comparisons can be dangerous, there are times they must be noted.

"America has the largest prison population in the world, and of the over 2 million men, women and children who make up the incarcerated, the overwhelming majority is Black. They are the most unemployed, the most caught in the unjust systems of justice, and in the gun game, they are the most hunted.

"A river of blood that washes the streets of our nation flows mostly from the bodies of our Black children. Yet, as the great debate emerges on the question of the gun, white America discusses the constitutional issue of ownership, while no one speaks of the consequences of our racial carnage.

"The question is:, Where is the raised voice of Black America? Why are we mute? Where are our leaders, our legislators? Where is the church?

"Not all, but many have been the recipients of this distinguished award. Many were men and women, who spoke up to remedy the ills of the nation. They were committed to radical thought. They were my mentors, my inspiration, my moral compass. Through them, I understood America's greatness.

Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois. Martin Luther King Jr. Eleanor Roosevelt, and others like Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker, Bobby Kennedy, [Condoleezza] Rice. And perhaps, most important of all for me, Paul Robeson. He was the sparrow. He was an artist who made us understand the depth of that calling, when he said, 'artists are the gatekeepers of truth. We are civilization's radical voice.'

"Never in the history of Black America has there ever been such a harvest of truly gifted and powerful artists, as we witness today. Yet, our nation hungers for their radical song. Let us not sit back silently, let us not be charged with patriotic treason.

"I thank my friend Sidney Poitier for stepping to the plate. I promise you, Sid, you'll never have to do this again. And my congratulations to all of you who are honored here tonight. And I will tell you that our kids, who languish in the prisons of America, are waiting for us to change the system."

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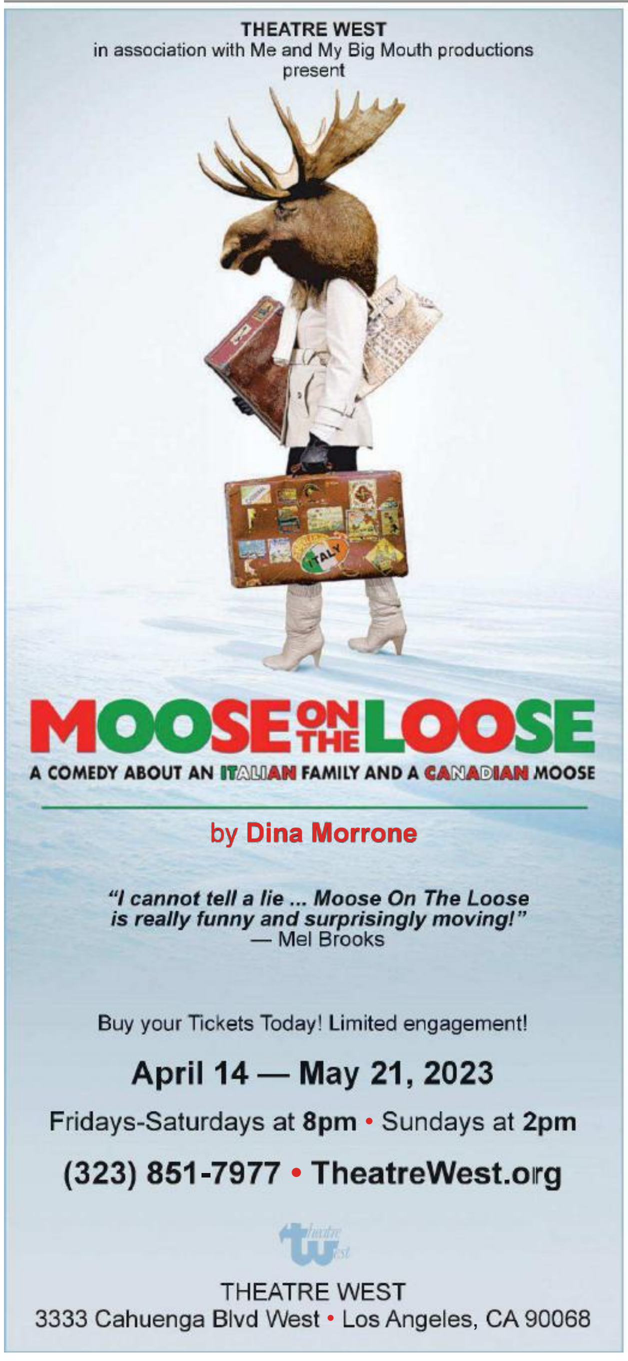

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by Dina Morrone

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ROYAL
11523 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A.
CARMEN R
1:00 4:00 7:00
EVERYTHING WENT FINE
1:20 4:20 7:20
JUDY BLUME FOREVER
1:30 4:30 7:30

MONICA
1332 Second Street Santa Monica
BEAU IS AFRAID R
12:50 3:45 7:10
CHEVALIER PG-13
1:30 4:20 7:10
WILD LIFE PG-13
1:10 4:30 5:15 7:30
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R
4:10 PM
SHOWING UP R
1:20 7:20
AIR R
1:10 4:00 7:00
DOSED: THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME
1:00 3:10 7:30

TOWN CENTER
17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
CHEVALIER PG-13
1:20 4:20 7:20
SOMEWHERE IN QUEENS R
1:00 4:00 7:00
EVERYTHING WENT FINE
1:10 7:00
MAFIA MAMMA R
1:30 4:30
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R
4:00 PM
AIR R
1:00 4:10 7:10
RECONQUISTADOR!
7:30 PM

NEWHALL
22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
BEAU IS AFRAID R
12:50 7:10
CHEVALIER PG-13
1:10 4:10 7:20
EVIL DEAD RISE R
1:30 4:20 7:00
MAFIA MAMMA R
4:35 PM
THE POPE'S EXORCIST R
1:20 4:00 7:10
RENFIELD R
12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40
AIR R
1:20 4:10 7:20
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG
12:50 3:00 5:15 7:30

GLENDALE
207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
BEAU IS AFRAID R
12:50 3:50 7:10
THE BEST MAN R
1:30 PM
BLIND WILLOW, SLEEPING WOMAN
4:10 PM
RENFIELD R
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:40
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R
4:30 7:20
SHOWING UP R
1:10 4:35 7:35
TOMMY GUNS
1:10 7:00

NoHo 7
5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
BEAU IS AFRAID R
12:50 3:50 7:10
CADEJO BLANCO
1:10 4:10 7:10
TO CATCH A KILLER R
1:20 4:30 7:20
MAFIA MAMMA R
4:40 PM
RENFIELD R
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R
1:10 7:40
AIR R
1:20 4:10 7:00
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG
12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40

CLAREMONT
450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
BEAU IS AFRAID R
12:50 3:45 7:10
MAFIA MAMMA R
4:40 PM
RENFIELD R
12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35
HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE R
1:10 7:30
AIR R
7:20 PM
AIR R
1:20 4:20
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG
12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40
FLASHDANCE R
7:00 PM

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He put a song in her heart

[**Belafonte,** from E1] 1980s, Belafonte would perform at the outdoor theater nestled in the hills of Griffith Park. For his legions of Los Angeles fans, which included my parents, these appearances were more than a pleasant night of music and dance. They were must-see events, and always sold out. My mom and dad would never miss an opportunity to bask in the magic of his charisma and musical prowess.

I can vividly recall when Belafonte would touch down at the Greek during summers of the 1960s and '70s. I was too young to go, and my sister and I would have to be overseen by a babysitter or spend the evening with a neighbor. But I was very familiar with Belafonte's music. It was the soundtrack of our house.

It seemed only a few days would pass before his "Calypso" or another of his albums would once again get spun on our hi-fi turntable. Naturally, "Day-O (The Banana Boat Song)" and "Man Smart (Woman Smarter)" were household favorites. My father would clench his fists and swing his arms, echoing the chorus of Belafonte's declaration, "That's right, de woman is, UH, smarter! That's right! That's right!" I thought it was a tribute to my mother.

They also loved his ballads like "Come Back Liza," and his delivery was my early introduction to how powerful and lovely a singing voice could be.

But it was the Belafonte date nights at the Greek that really stood out. My parents would go out pretty often, but there was always an extra level of excitement before they went to see Belafonte. My mother would look especially pretty in her gorgeous dress, and my dad would dress up like he was going to church.

They would get home late, still bubbling with excitement.

I would sit in bed as they described the concert in detail: Belafonte's tireless energy, the audience's endless cheers for more. He would tease them about encores: "Now you're on *my* time." He would give a shout-out to the "people in the trees" — fans who had not been able to secure tickets and had climbed into the high trees around the Greek to get a view of the stage.

My parents always brought home a program, and I would sit on the floor the next day gazing at the pictures of Belafonte in performance, with his family and doing charitable work around the world.

I was an adult when my parents saw Belafonte for the last time. A friend who lived in my apartment building was an usher at the Greek and managed to secure backstage passes for my parents. After the show, they went to the green room and watched patiently as Belafonte worked the room, greeting family and friends.

He eventually made his way to my parents. ("He came up to *us!*") I'm not sure what their exact exchange was. But I do know that Belafonte kissed my mother, sending her into a near-swoon. He followed that gesture with a wink for my father.

I related that story to Belafonte, who recorded a live album at the Greek, when I interviewed him many years later in an office in Culver City. He and Taylor Branch were developing a TV version of Branch's Pulitzer Prize-winning history of the civil rights movement, "Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-63."

By then, Belafonte's performance days were long behind him. I was still struck by the power of his presence, his raspy voice, his commanding vision.

I was almost embarrassed but felt compelled to tell him how happy he had made my mother that particular night. He said nothing, but I thought I saw a gleam in his eye.

And he smiled.

The laughs are big in Texas too

Can't Even Comedy's small-town stops give L.A. comics room to grow and connect.

By Nate Jackson

In the pursuit of becoming a headlining comic, the most time-honored route is the road. For most standups, that means flocking to the major markets around the country, booking the biggest clubs that will have them and trying to get noticed by jaded city-dwellers, who have thousands of options for entertainment on any given weekend.

It's a life that Maxwell and Caitlin Benson, the producers behind Can't Even Comedy, could easily participate in if they wanted to be like everybody else. But for them it's become much more fulfilling (and lucrative) to put on shows in places you don't normally find comedy — pizza joints, hotel courtyards, pet shelters. It's a special lane they carved for themselves and their stable of stand-ups from the L.A. comedy scene at regular shows like the one they do every month on the rooftop of Mama Shelter in Hollywood (including another installment at 7 p.m. Thursday headlined by Tony Baker). But since packing up and moving to Austin last year, they've found a way to create cool shows on an unconventional tour route that transports L.A. comics to and from Texas, performing for small-town crowds full of people who aren't used to being thought of when it comes to comedy.

When they first started coming to Austin, the couple were lucky to get 20 people to come out to a bar show on a weeknight. Roughly a year and several tours later, they're able to sell 250 tickets at the same Texas venue.

"What we're hoping is to create a non-traditional pathway that opens up another channel for comics to be able to follow our blueprint or create their own," Maxwell says. "But it's important to realize that to be a successful comic, you don't always have to go down Main Street."

Every month, the married couple pack up a van with a handful of comedians and embark on a route that takes them through Tucson, then into Texas towns like Cedar Park, Dripping Springs and Fort Stockton at bars like the Old '76. While it might not sound glamorous, the couple say these shows allow them to find venues like hotels and local bars that pay comics better and give them great accommodations and star treatment that they never receive in big cities.

"L.A. is a great scene because the bar is so high to learn how to be a comic," Caitlin says. "But in order to become a successful comic, you have to tap into the rest of the country. We start small and we go anywhere we can go, we just slowly build our fan base and eventually you'll have 150 people in each market."

Like many comics who started migrating to Austin in mid-2021, the Can't Even team was able to put on shows there that weren't allowed in L.A. thanks to Texas' relaxed COVID protocols. The Bensons saw an untapped market within a state that everyone in their field of entertainment seemed to be moving to, even before Joe Rogan opened his new club, the Comedy Mothership, in downtown Austin last month. After moving out of L.A. and getting acclimated to Texas, it became clear that there were ways to add to the state's recent comedy boom that most comedians hadn't considered.

Can't Even Comedy

CAITLIN BENSON, co-producer of Austin-based Can't Even Comedy and its regular host, performs at its monthly showcase at Mama Shelter in Hollywood.

Can't Even Comedy

Where: Mama Shelter Hotel, 6500 Selma Ave., Los Angeles

When: 7 p.m. DJ set, 8 p.m. comedy show

Tickets: $10-$20

Info: *cantevencomedy.com*

That value of bringing people to outlying venues that may otherwise be dead on a Wednesday often translates into more equitable deals for the promoters when it comes to getting to use venue spaces for free. While L.A. comedy venues rarely bat an eye at most touring talent, in Texas suburbs the excitement for L.A. comics puts butts in seats for longer amounts of time, creating revenue that's rightfully passed down to the producers and comedians working the stage, sometimes thousands of dollars per show. It's typically not the case for most comics who are used to making around $20to $100 to do a 15-minute spot at a major club.

"We're probably more looked after in the smaller towns than in the big markets," Maxwell says. "And we're treated like celebrities when we go there. All the comics drink for free all night long, where in L.A. it's hard to get a drink ticket for one person."

At a recent Can't Even show at the Hotel San Jose on South Congress Avenue in Austin, a solid crowd of a couple dozen 20- and 30-somethings was sitting at tables in the courtyard around sunset to watch a crop of comedians do a show. Hotel guests observed from their balconies overlooking the small stage set under glowing bistro lights.

As Can't Even's regular host, Caitlin does the opening set and brings up the comics she and Maxwell take on the road with them, as well as any local Texas talent they can find that fits the bill. Oftentimes they're able get comped rooms when performing at hotels, which also cuts down on the overhead that comes with touring, not to mention better perks that you don't normally get with a club gig.

As a touring L.A.-based comic who regularly plays the Comedy Store, the Improv and the Laugh Factory, Ron Taylor says traveling to Texas with Can't Even in front of these unspoiled crowds always has a way of turning into something special.

"What stood out to me as far as the tour was just realizing how many little cities there are that would love more entertainment," Taylor says. "I'm on the road most of the year but even though I go to a bunch of different states, it's always the famous city of the state. And we were doing like random towns throughout Texas and just seeing different walks of life and seeing how much they really appreciate live entertainment. Even the smaller crowds were super appreciative."

The farther away from major cities they go, the better the shows wind up being. Venturing up to north Austin in Cedar Park, the L.A. expats found themselves doing comedy in a bar next to a suburban sporting complex where parents are used to dropping their kids off at soccer practice but were treated to a comedy show, followed by a show in Dripping Springs at one of the few bars in town — a far cry from the nightlife of Austin, which has more bars and clubs per capita than most big cities in the country.

"Usually people in the suburbs don't want to come downtown to see comedy, so not only are those audiences there to have a good time, they're appreciative of the fact that we're coming to them versus them having to come to us," Caitlin says.

In an era when comics have to search for different paths to making a living — whether it's alternative methods of putting out specials, building a following through social media or finding new ways to sell merch — a niche-driven tour circuit is an area in which companies like Can't Even find that they can be profitable doing what they love, paving an offbeat path to success one small town at a time.

"We take comics from L.A. on the road with us and it totally changes their mind about middle America," Caitlin says. "They'll say, 'Oh, people in these small towns like comedy?' Yeah, they do," she says with a laugh. "And a lot of them will be fans of yours forever in these small towns. When it comes to creating your following, sure you can build 'em 100 at a time — but you can also build 'em one by one."

A laugh (and a Tarzan yell)

[**Burnett,** from E1]
common knowledge that tugging her ear lobe began as a message to her grandmother. We know Carol on a first-name basis.

Eleven seasons of "The Carol Burnett Show," from 1967 to 1978, made Burnett family to more than one generation of television viewers, all the more as it was a show families watched together. It might be bawdy, but it was never blue; and though it could be cutting, even a little upsetting, as in the "Family" sketches in which the star played the much-abused Eunice, the show's default mode was a genial, generous silliness. It had no interest in the news; its favorite targets — or subjects, rather, as the satire was affectionate — were the iconic Hollywood films Burnett grew up on. When television is finally laid to rest, we will still remember her sweeping down a staircase, in a dress made from drapes — and their rod — in a takeoff on "Gone With the Wind."

Burnett's career embodies a confluence of mediums. She grew up on the movies, in Hollywood, where with her grandmother she would see several a week and would then reenact them with playmates afterward. (Jump ahead to "The Carol Burnett Show.") Wanting to break into the theater, she set off for New York — her trip sponsored by a benefactor whose identity she has always kept secret — at a time when the scene, on- and off-Broadway, was lively, the city was the center of television and TV was not so much a budget version of film as an electronic extension of the stage.

And it was a song — "I Made a Fool of Myself Over John Foster Dulles," the secretary of State under then-President Eisenhower — performed in a nightclub act at the Blue Angel that led to appearances on "Tonight Starring Jack Paar" and "The Ed Sullivan Show," and eventually, from 1959 to 1962, to a regular spot on "The Garry Moore Show."

(Carl Reiner, when I interviewed him once about working for Sid Caesar in those years, remembered a young Burnett, who had a friend on "Caesar's Hour," coming to Saturday night run-throughs and then going home to see how the broadcast differed. "She was dedicated to learning her craft," he said.)

By the time "The Carol Burnett Show" premiered, Burnett had already won three Emmys: one for "Moore"; one for her 1962 special with Julie Andrews, "Julie and Carol at Carnegie Hall" (with a script by Mike Nichols); and the 1963 "An Evening With Carol Burnett," featuring Robert Preston.

Tony Esparza CBS

QUEEN of comedy Carol Burnett, in 2001, projects.

'Carol Burnett: 90 Years of Laughter + Love'

Where: NBC

When: 8 p.m. Wednesday

Streaming: Peacock (any time, starting Thursday)

Rating: TV-PG (may be unsuitable for young children)

"Once Upon a Mattress," which made her a Broadway star in 1959, was mounted for television in 1964 (she would play Princess Winnifred again for television in 1972, and the queen in 2005), following a 1963 broadcast of "Calamity Jane" (adapted from the Doris Day film). A 1966 special, "Carol + 2," with Zero Mostel and Lucille Ball, followed.

Her series brought her back west, to "Television City in Hollywood." CBS had wanted a situation comedy, but Burnett had the contractual power to demand a variety show, combining sketches and musical numbers.

And yet its long-running, little-changing central cast — Burnett, Harvey Korman (main comic foil), Lyle Waggoner (announcer and random handsome guy), Vicki Lawrence (onscreen kid sister and onscreen mother) and Tim Conway (deadpan anarchist) — and recurring bits and characters gave the show something of the flavor of a sitcom: a family comedy composed of skits and songs. At the same time, it was a sort of theater; it mattered that it was live and imperfect. The bloopers stayed in, if they were funny, and became a signature of the show, which at times seemed like a war between cast members attempting not to break up and others determined to make it happen.

With an athletic gift for slapstick and a rubbery way of expressing herself — her speech a symphony of high-end squeaks and low-end syllables drawn out for effect that matched what she'd do with her mouth and eyes — Burnett was built for comedy and for television. Had she first pursued a career in pictures, she might well have joined that corps of talented women maddeningly fated to play the funny best friend. TV took her whole, allowed her to play characters old, young, smart, dumb, dignified and undignified; she could project sex appeal so well because she was herself appealing. And, just as important, TV let her sing.

After the CBS series closed shop, on the star's initiative, there were other, briefer, variously titled iterations of "The Carol Burnett Show," but variety had by that time become something more to remember fondly than invest in.

Still, there were more specials to come, including a reunion with Andrews, "Julie and Carol at Lincoln Center," "Dolly & Carol in Nashville," as in Parton; "Sills and Burnett at the Met," as in Beverly; television movies (and some theatrical features, including the musical "Annie" and Robert Altman's "A Wedding") that showed off her dramatic range.

There were turns on "The Larry Sanders Show," "Mad About You," "Glee," "All My Children" and, just last year, "Better Call Saul." Upcoming: "Palm Royale" on Apple TV+, teased in the birthday special by costars Laura Dern, Kristen Wiig and Allison Janney.

"Love + Laughter" — they're much the same thing. Burnett has often recalled the life-changing effect of the first laughs she got onstage; and nothing makes an audience happier and more grateful than to be made to laugh. It's an exchange of gifts. Her closing theme, written by her then-husband and producer Joe Hamilton, features these lyrics: "I'm so glad we had this time together / Just to have a laugh or sing a song." They have a ring of truth, but happily, it isn't time we have to say so long.

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—Steven Vargas, USC Annenberg Media

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MAY 12-13

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COMICS

SUDOKU

Level: Moderate

		1	6			5		3
5	9						6	1
	6							
	3		1	4	9			
4								8
			7	8	3		9	
							5	
1	8						3	2
9		3			2	6		

Level: Gentle

			6	3	
		2			
4					
3					5
			4		
		5	2		

7	4	6	8	2	9	5	1	3
3	5	9	1	6	4	7	8	2
1	2	8	7	3	5	6	9	4
5	8	1	3	9	2	4	7	6
9	6	4	5	7	1	2	3	8
2	7	3	4	8	6	9	5	1
6	1	2	9	5	8	3	4	7
4	3	5	2	1	7	8	6	9
8	9	7	6	4	3	1	2	5

2	5	6	3	4	1
1	4	3	5	2	6
5	2	1	6	3	4
6	3	4	2	1	5
4	6	2	1	5	3
3	1	5	4	6	2

4/26/23

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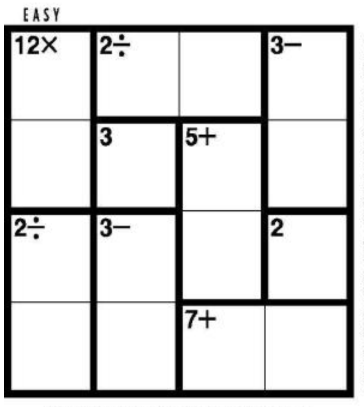
Solutions to Tuesday's puzzles

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk.*

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY



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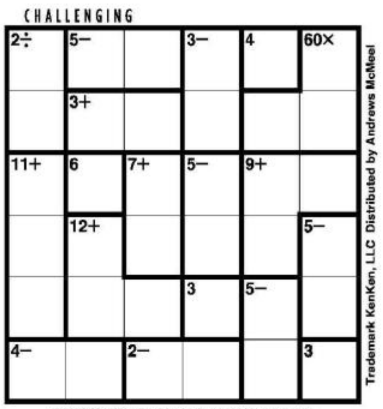
CHALLENGING



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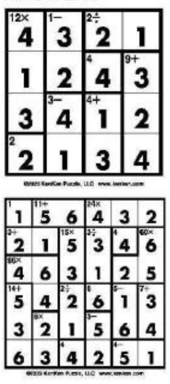
PREVIOUS ANSWERS



4/26/23

HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): New things will interest you. Your heart will become light, your spirit playful. You're especially compatible with air signs now.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You'll accommodate a need so well that you'll soon be depended on repeatedly. There is fulfillment, opportunity and money in this.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): You care how things look and feel, mostly because you realize such things can create an emotional response.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): The best conversations will end conclusively or lead to the next steps.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You don't have to be agreeable. If you decide it feels more authentic to present a challenge, this is a legitimate tactic to heighten the situation.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's a comfort to know you're loved how you are, but it doesn't stop you from wanting to improve.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Focusing on the right things will build your confidence. Refrain from comparing yourself to friends and neighbors.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): You cannot control what another person is capable of sensing or understanding about you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Once your attention is engaged, you are totally focused on the one who commanded it. That said, it won't be easy to get your attention today.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Just because others have accomplished what you're aiming for doesn't mean there's less room for you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): So much is going right in a relationship. The parts that aren't working can safely be ignored.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Your curiosity and selfless generosity will orient you in such a way to be unconcerned with your own interests, unworried about how you're coming across and all the more attractive because of it.

Today's birthday (April 26): Welcome to a year of serendipity! You'll be responsible for accidental creations and useful inventions. Excellent organizational and record-keeping systems will help you make the most of this good luck. More highlights: Social success will lead to financial success. You'll build something that lives on for centuries. A cash win leads to a spree. Aries and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers: 9, 3, 33, 29 and 18.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis
By Susan Gelfand

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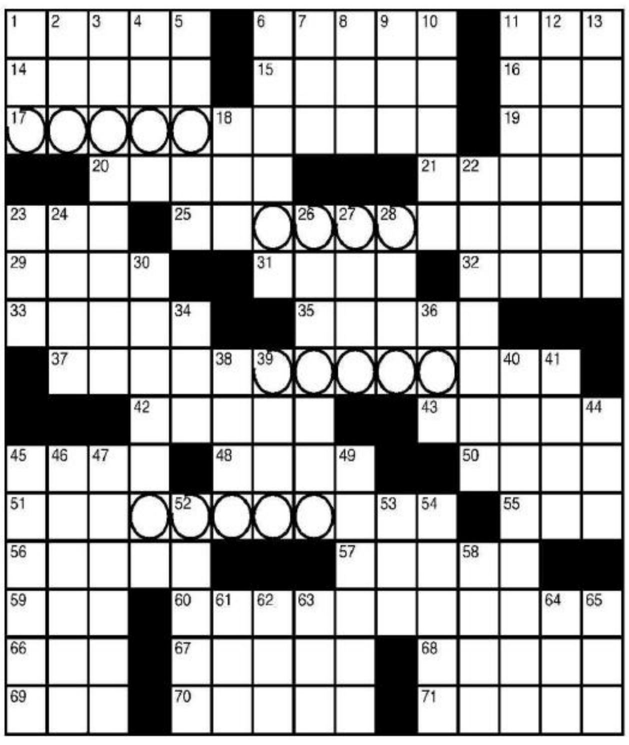

ACROSS
1 Taj __
6 Provide funding for
11 Nurse
14 Desert plant used to make tequila
15 City near Dayton with a Greek name
16 Alter __
17 Primatologist who is the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees
19 Take off
20 Natural Thanksgiving decor
21 Tire pattern
23 Fresh from the garden
25 Postimpressionist painter whose work influenced cubism
29 Fiendish
31 Starter served with a spoon
32 Gift basket fruit
33 Lavish celebrations
35 Rumor, to a rumor mill
37 Cartoonist who created Snoopy and Woodstock
42 Mover's challenge
43 Cheering wildly
45 Pinochle kin
48 Sullen
50 Alt-rock band Better Than __
51 Radio personality who declared himself "King of All Media"
55 Have a nosh
56 Ticked off
57 Crimson Tide coach Nick
59 Apiece
60 Cause of a major paradigm shift, and an apt description of 17-, 25-, 37-, and 51-Across as well as their sets of circled letters
66 Skosh
67 Farewell that's bid
68 January, in Jalisco
69 Walk-__: bit parts
70 Submit, as a complaint
71 Stopwatch button

DOWN
1 Capt.'s superior
2 Turkish title
3 Spend time around
4 Small Chevy rebranded as the Sonic
5 Helpful boost
6 Book after Genesis
7 Connecticut governor Lamont
8 Letters from one's folks?
9 Fryolator need
10 Ballroom dance in 3/4 time
11 Peaceful
12 Galápagos lizard
13 Consider carefully
18 Rita featured on Iggy Azalea's "Black Widow"
22 Pure bliss
23 Slo-mo reviewer
24 With, on le menu
26 Finishes an online session
27 Mongrels
28 Bigger than big
30 Eagerly accepted
34 __ Lanka
36 __ Na Na
38 Actress Diane
39 Mireille of "Big Love"
40 Cough drops
41 Fast fashion clothing chain based in Spain
44 Tattletale
45 Mailing label words
46 Kimchi cuisine
47 Ribbons and trophies
49 Coast Guard operation
52 Majestic
53 Stadium cheer
54 Pro hoopster
58 Green Gables girl
61 Big commotion
62 Century beginning
63 Brain waves mapper, briefly
64 Bard's before
65 Nonsense

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

P	O	S	S	U	M	■	■	E	T	T	U	■	L	A	P
S	A	L	U	T	E	S	■	R	O	A	N	■	E	T	A
S	K	I	M	A	S	K	■	A	M	I	S	■	S	T	Y
T	Y	P	O	■	C	A	R	T	■	L	A	S	S	I	E
■	■	■	■	O	A	T	H	O	F	O	F	F	I	C	E
■	S	T	A	N	L	E	Y	■	O	R	E	O	S	■	■
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W	H	O	L	E	T	T	H	E	D	O	G	S	O	U	T
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■	■	H	I	K	E	R	■	O	R	B	I	T	E	D	■
S	O	Y	L	E	N	T	G	R	E	E	N	■	■	■	■
T	A	C	K	L	E	■	O	T	I	C	■	E	D	G	E
U	S	A	■	V	R	B	O	■	G	O	T	M	I	L	K
D	I	S	■	I	V	E	S	■	N	O	S	I	R	E	E
S	S	E	■	N	E	N	E	■	■	L	A	T	K	E	S

4/26/23

BRIDGE

By Frank Stewart

Eddie Kantar, who left us last year, was one of bridge's most engaging and prolific writers for eight (!) decades, an honored teacher and a world champion player.

Eddie was declarer at today's four spades and faced the problem of disposing of his third club. He also had to manage his trump suit correctly (my topic this week). Eddie won the first diamond with the ace and immediately led a club: deuce, 10, jack. West led another diamond, and Eddie took the king and led a second club to his queen and West's ace.

When West led a third diamond, Eddie carefully withheld the queen; he played low from dummy, ruffed in his hand and next took the A-K of trumps. When East-West played low, Eddie ruffed his last club in dummy and discarded a heart on the queen of diamonds. He lost a trump and two clubs, making four.

Declarer would go down if he took the high trumps too soon. West would get in with a high club to cash his queen of trumps, leaving declarer with a third club loser.

You hold: ♠ J 6 2 ♥ A 10 5 3 ♦ A K Q 4 ♣ 8 4. Neither side vulnerable. The dealer, at your right, opens one heart. What do you say?

Answer: You might get away with a takeout double. If your partner responded ("advanced") in spades with a five-card suit or in diamonds, you might reach a playable contract or even a game. But if partner bid clubs, you would be in bad shape. Pass. This is a good defensive hand. If the opponents stop low, your side may come in later.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ J 6 2
♥ A 10 5 3
♦ A K Q 4
♣ 8 4

WEST
♠ Q 10 3
♥ J 4
♦ J 10 9 8 7
♣ A J 5

EAST
♠ 8 5
♥ Q 8 7 2
♦ 6 3
♣ K 9 7 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 9 7 4
♥ K 9 6
♦ 5 2
♣ Q 10 6

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Opening lead — ♦ J

Tribune Content Agency

ASK AMY

Traumatized at church

Dear Amy: My childhood was not horrible — just bad.

I have PTSD, dissociation and sleep paralysis because of things that happened during my childhood.

Whenever the subject of childhood is brought up, my parents say it was good.

If my siblings or I say otherwise, it just starts a fight.

We were raised "Christian." We went to church three to seven days a week.

I do not go to church now.

Eight years ago, our grandmother died. She also attended this church.

I decided to go into the church building for her funeral (big mistake).

A few days later I started getting flashbacks of things that had happened to me as a child at that church. My PTSD got worse. I had bad dreams and night terrors.

My doctor put me on medication to suppress these nightmares. After seven years, my anxiety is finally at a tolerable stage.

I swore never to step foot in the building again, but my family pressures me.

I have said that if they die and their funeral is held there, I will NOT go.

I want to get them to understand (without a fight starting or feelings getting hurt), but I am at a loss.

Scarred in N.C.

Dear Scarred: Given your long-term symptoms, I'd offer a gentle correction to your statement that your childhood was "not horrible." You are experiencing symptoms similar to those reported by soldiers returning from war. Your past seems "horrible" enough.

Your choice to get professional help is a great one, and I hope that you continue to discuss your experiences with a qualified therapist.

If you want to remain in touch with family, the best way to do this is to hold onto your decisions privately and learn how to deflect pressure. You can review strategies with your therapist.

If people have a problem with you staying away from church, you can say that you've already explained your reasons, and those reasons have not changed.

You should consider blowing the whistle on this toxic church community. You might be helping yourself and other survivors.

However, you are obviously extremely vulnerable. Bringing your own experiences to light would expose you to more pressure and possible estrangement from your family and other community members. Doing so could retraumatize you. This is an important decision, not to be taken lightly.

You might connect with a support group for others who have been traumatized in faith-based communities.

Dear Amy: I have a good relationship with my neighbors, whom I would describe as "extremely quiet." We only meet over the "backyard fence," where we talk about our gardens.

Recently I told them that I was hiring an arborist to trim some trees at the back of my property where it meets theirs. They pointed out two dead trees that they were eager to have removed.

I offered to have my guy do it while he was handling mine. They demurred — but then said, "Oh, that would be really nice. Thank you."

The guy did the work, and I realized that their portion cost around $400. I can definitely afford it, but I'm disappointed that they haven't really thanked me.

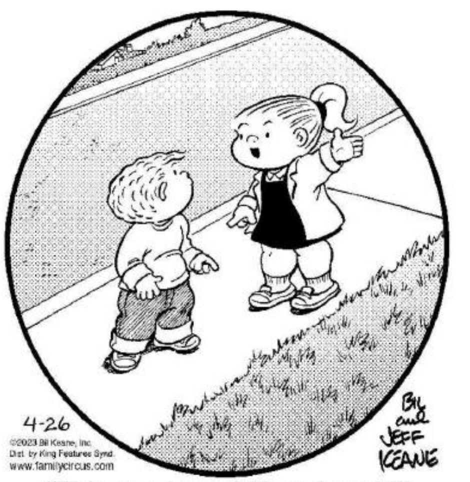
What do you think?

Good Neighbor

Dear Good Neighbor: I think you're really generous. You pressed this solution on your neighbors and they thanked you in advance.

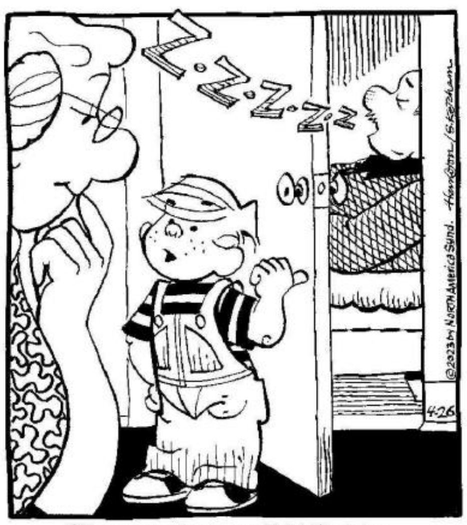
Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com.*

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



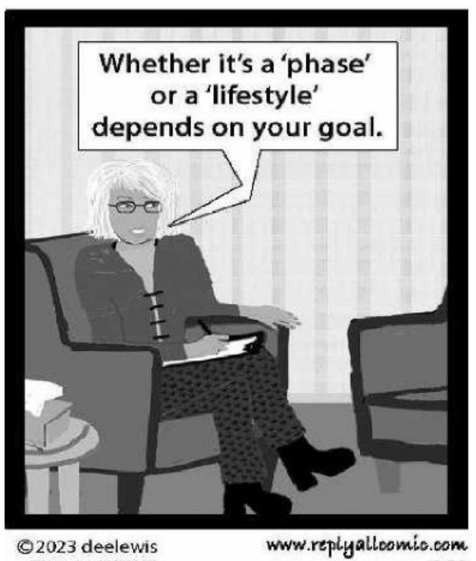
"This can be uphill or downhill at the same time. Depends on which way you're facing."

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham



"IT SOUNDS LIKE MR. WILSON NEEDS A *NEW MUFFLER!*"

REPLY ALL LITE By Donna Lewis


Whether it's a 'phase' or a 'lifestyle' depends on your goal.

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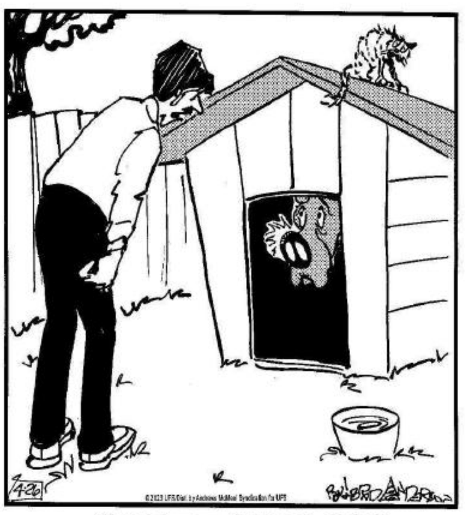
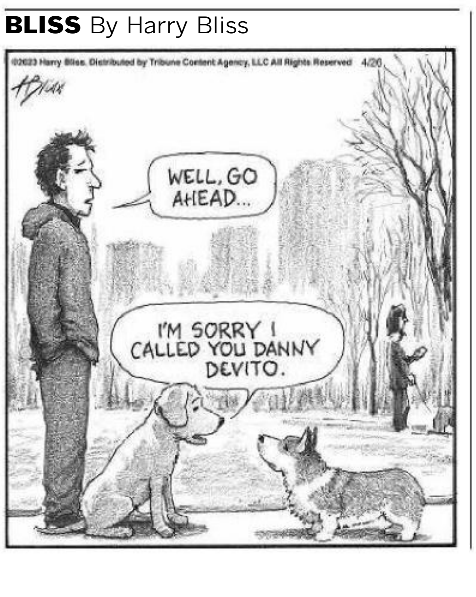
www.replyallcomic.com
4-26

MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson

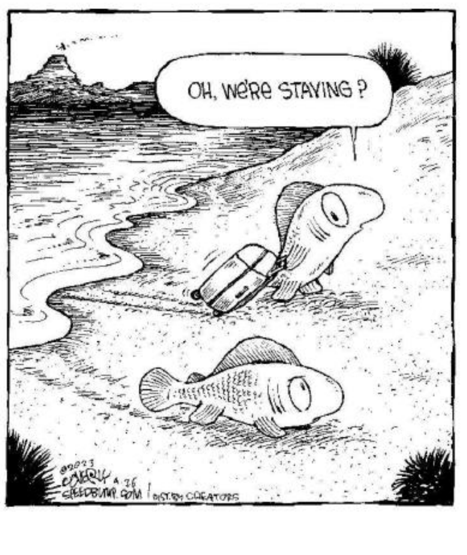


"I told you that cat didn't want to play."

BLISS By Harry Bliss

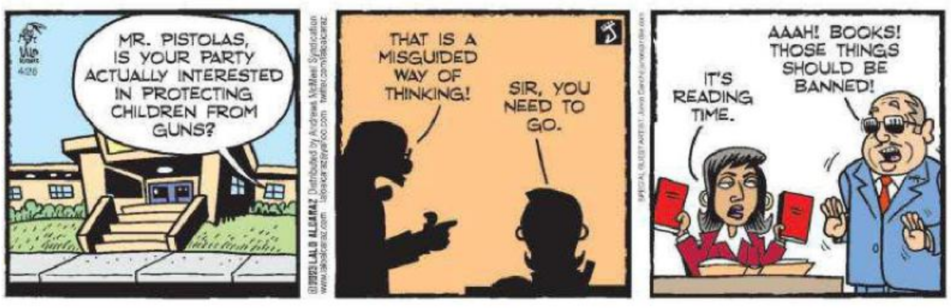

©2023 Harry Bliss. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved 4/26
WELL, GO AHEAD...
I'M SORRY I CALLED YOU DANNY DEVITO.

SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly

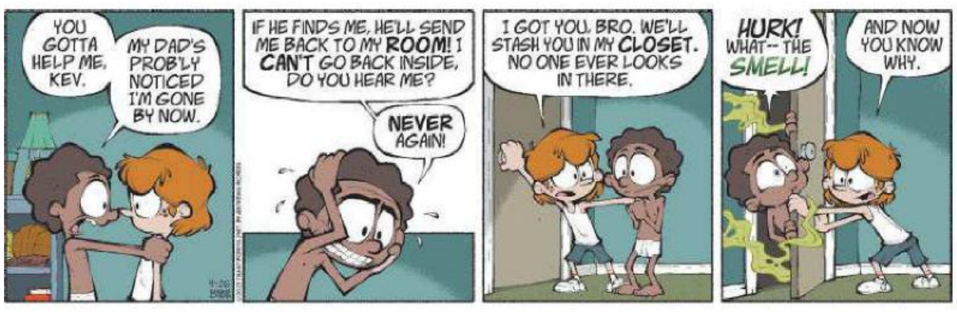


COMICS

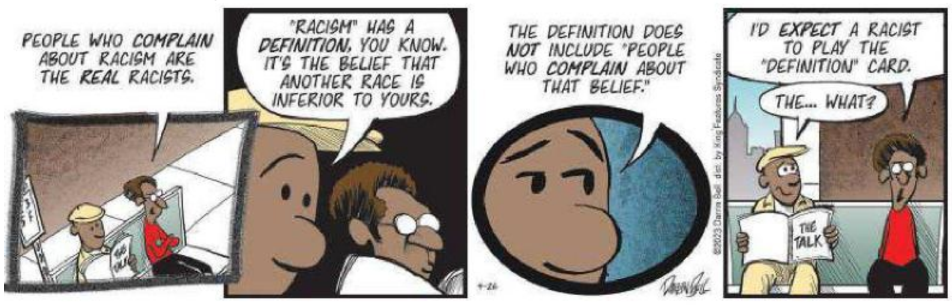
LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz


4/26
MR. PISTOLAS, IS YOUR PARTY ACTUALLY INTERESTED IN PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM GUNS?
THAT IS A MISGUIDED WAY OF THINKING!
SIR, YOU NEED TO GO.
IT'S READING TIME.
AAAH! BOOKS! THOSE THINGS SHOULD BE BANNED!

CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia


YOU GOTTA HELP ME, KEV.
MY DAD'S PROB'LY NOTICED I'M GONE BY NOW.
IF HE FINDS ME, HE'LL SEND ME BACK TO MY ROOM! I CAN'T GO BACK INSIDE, DO YOU HEAR ME?
NEVER AGAIN!
I GOT YOU, BRO. WE'LL STASH YOU IN MY CLOSET. NO ONE EVER LOOKS IN THERE.
HURK! WHAT-- THE SMELL!
AND NOW YOU KNOW WHY.

CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell


PEOPLE WHO COMPLAIN ABOUT RACISM ARE THE REAL RACISTS.
"RACISM" HAS A DEFINITION, YOU KNOW. IT'S THE BELIEF THAT ANOTHER RACE IS INFERIOR TO YOURS.
THE DEFINITION DOES NOT INCLUDE "PEOPLE WHO COMPLAIN ABOUT THAT BELIEF."
I'D EXPECT A RACIST TO PLAY THE "DEFINITION" CARD.
THE... WHAT?
THE TALK
4-26
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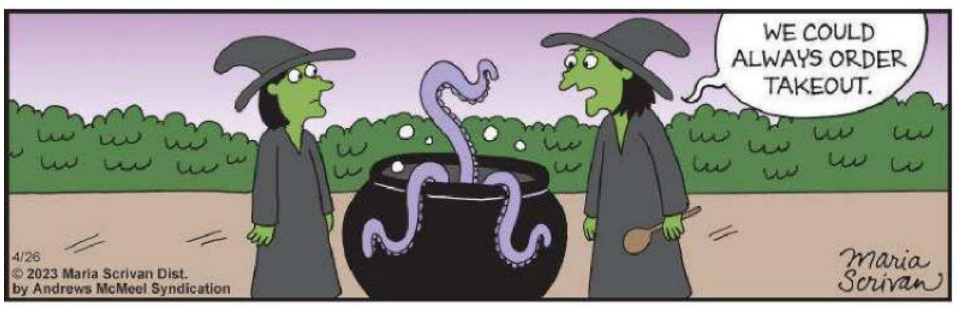
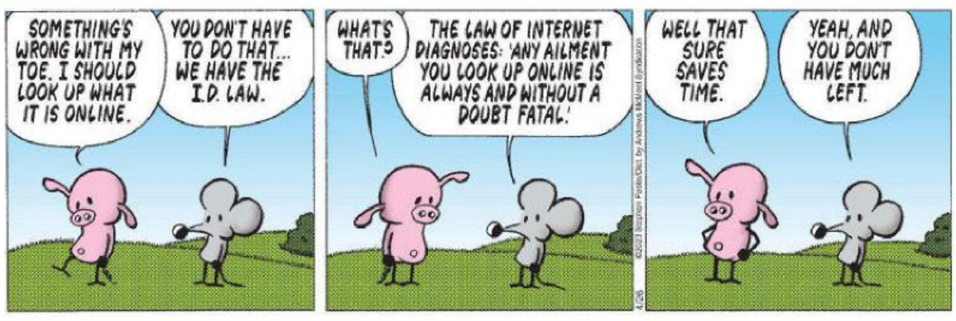
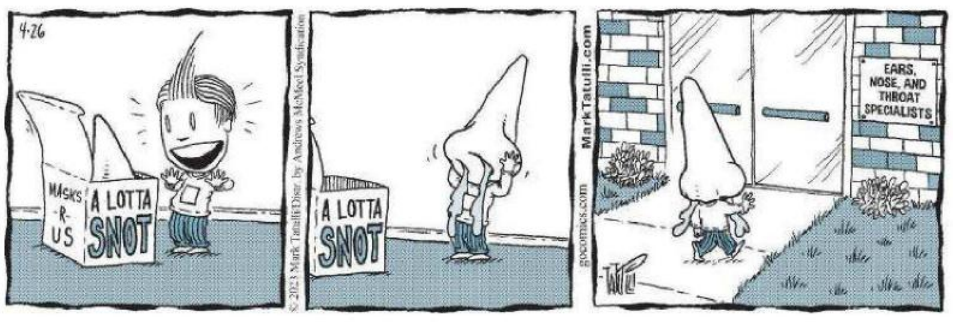
HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan


WE COULD ALWAYS ORDER TAKEOUT.
4/26
© 2023 Maria Scrivan Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
Maria Scrivan

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis


SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY TOE. I SHOULD LOOK UP WHAT IT IS ONLINE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT... WE HAVE THE I.D. LAW.
WHAT'S THAT?
THE LAW OF INTERNET DIAGNOSES: 'ANY AILMENT YOU LOOK UP ONLINE IS ALWAYS AND WITHOUT A DOUBT FATAL.'
WELL THAT SURE SAVES TIME.
YEAH, AND YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH LEFT.
4/26

LIO By Mark Tatulli


4-26
MASKS -R- US
A LOTTA SNOT
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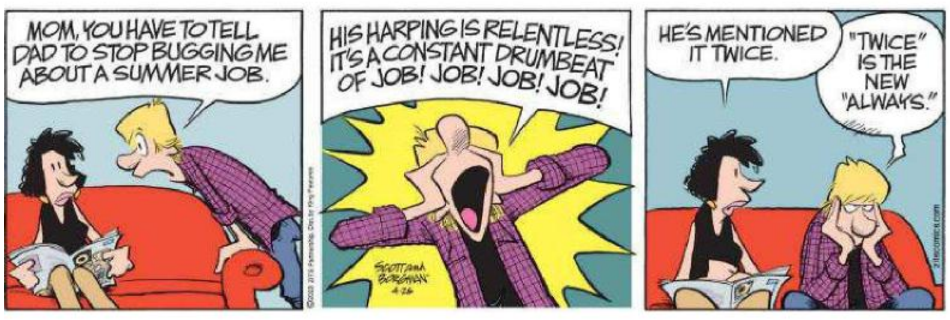
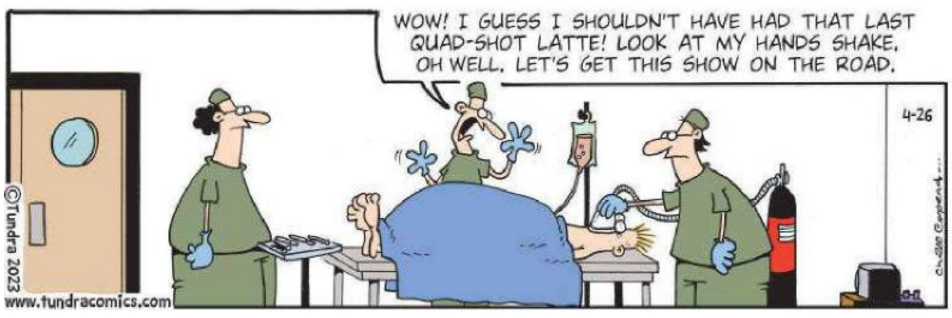
MarkTatulli.com
gocomics.com
EARS, NOSE, AND THROAT SPECIALISTS

ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman


MOM, YOU HAVE TO TELL DAD TO STOP BUGGING ME ABOUT A SUMMER JOB.
HIS HARPING IS RELENTLESS! IT'S A CONSTANT DRUMBEAT OF JOB! JOB! JOB! JOB!
SCOTT AND BORGMAN 4-26
HE'S MENTIONED IT TWICE.
"TWICE" IS THE NEW "ALWAYS."

TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter


WOW! I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD THAT LAST QUAD-SHOT LATTE! LOOK AT MY HANDS SHAKE. OH WELL, LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.
4-26
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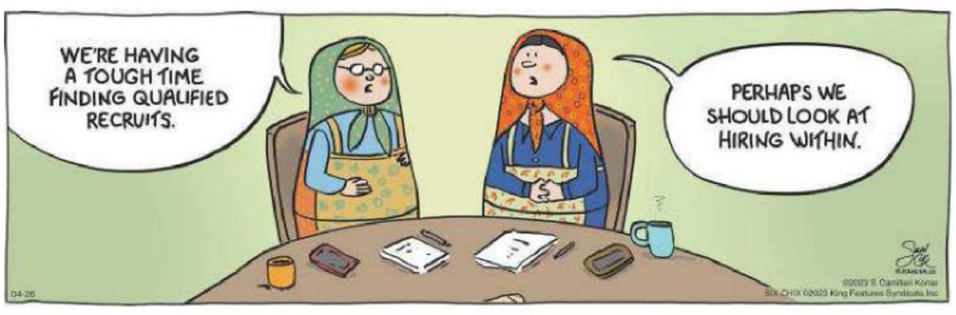
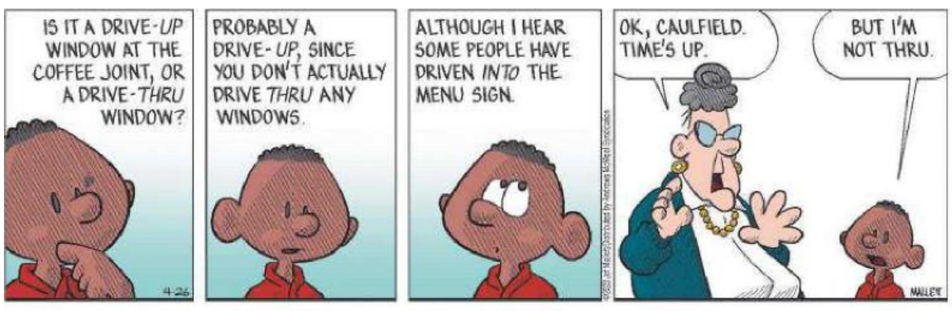
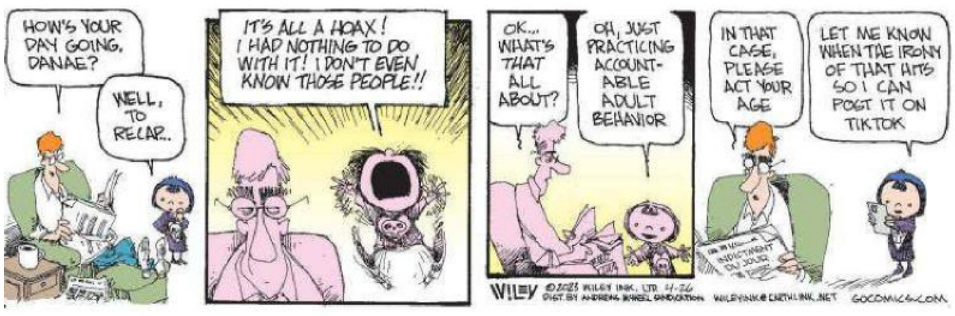
SIX CHIX By Susan Camilleri Konar


WE'RE HAVING A TOUGH TIME FINDING QUALIFIED RECRUITS.
PERHAPS WE SHOULD LOOK AT HIRING WITHIN.
04-26
©2023 S. Camilleri Konar
SIX CHIX ©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

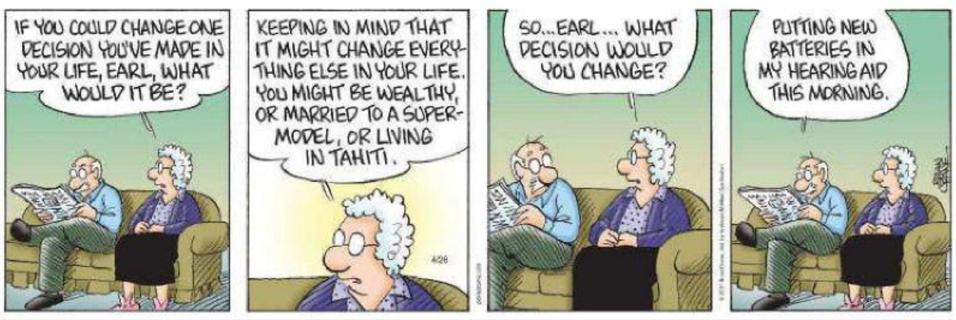
FRAZZ By Jef Mallett


IS IT A DRIVE-UP WINDOW AT THE COFFEE JOINT, OR A DRIVE-THRU WINDOW?
4-26
PROBABLY A DRIVE-UP, SINCE YOU DON'T ACTUALLY DRIVE THRU ANY WINDOWS.
ALTHOUGH I HEAR SOME PEOPLE HAVE DRIVEN INTO THE MENU SIGN.
OK, CAULFIELD. TIME'S UP.
BUT I'M NOT THRU.
MALLETT

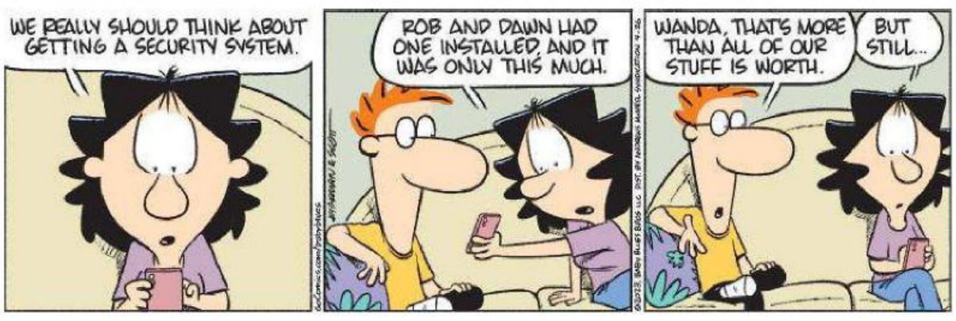
NON SEQUITUR By Wiley


HOW'S YOUR DAY GOING, DANAE?
WELL, TO RECAP...
IT'S ALL A HOAX! I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT! I DON'T EVEN KNOW THOSE PEOPLE!!
OK... WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?
OH, JUST PRACTICING ACCOUNTABLE ADULT BEHAVIOR
IN THAT CASE, PLEASE ACT YOUR AGE
LET ME KNOW WHEN THE IRONY OF THAT HITS SO I CAN POST IT ON TIKTOK
INDICTMENT DU JOUR
WILEY ©2023 WILEY INK, LTD 4-26 DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION WILEYINK@EARTHLINK.NET GOCOMICS.COM

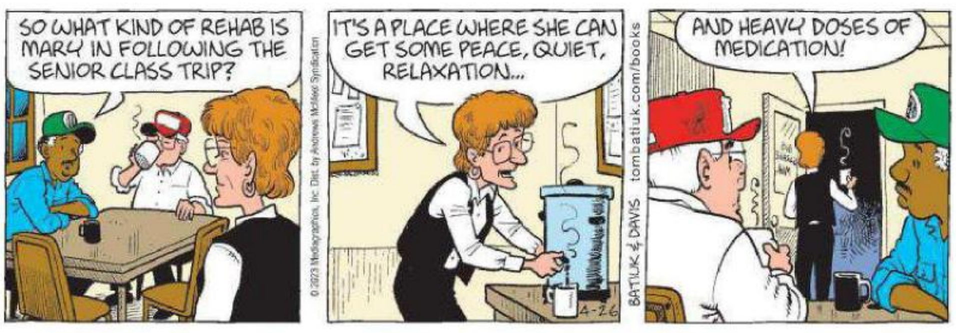
PICKLES By Brian Crane


IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE DECISION YOU'VE MADE IN YOUR LIFE, EARL, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
KEEPING IN MIND THAT IT MIGHT CHANGE EVERYTHING ELSE IN YOUR LIFE. YOU MIGHT BE WEALTHY, OR MARRIED TO A SUPERMODEL, OR LIVING IN TAHITI.
4/26
SO...EARL... WHAT DECISION WOULD YOU CHANGE?
PUTTING NEW BATTERIES IN MY HEARING AID THIS MORNING.

BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman


WE REALLY SHOULD THINK ABOUT GETTING A SECURITY SYSTEM.
ROB AND DAWN HAD ONE INSTALLED, AND IT WAS ONLY THIS MUCH.
WANDA, THAT'S MORE THAN ALL OF OUR STUFF IS WORTH.
BUT STILL...

CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers


SO WHAT KIND OF REHAB IS MARY IN FOLLOWING THE SENIOR CLASS TRIP?
IT'S A PLACE WHERE SHE CAN GET SOME PEACE, QUIET, RELAXATION...
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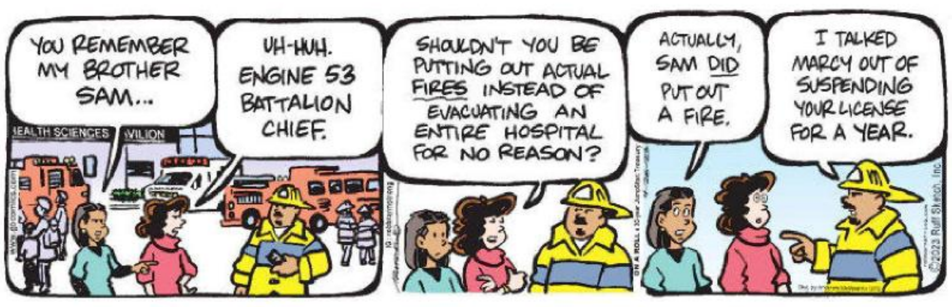
4-26
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
AND HEAVY DOSES OF MEDICATION!

JUMP START By Robb Armstrong


YOU REMEMBER MY BROTHER SAM...
HEALTH SCIENCES PAVILION
UH-HUH. ENGINE 53 BATTALION CHIEF.
SHOULDN'T YOU BE PUTTING OUT ACTUAL FIRES INSTEAD OF EVACUATING AN ENTIRE HOSPITAL FOR NO REASON?
ACTUALLY, SAM DID PUT OUT A FIRE.
I TALKED MARCY OUT OF SUSPENDING YOUR LICENSE FOR A YEAR.
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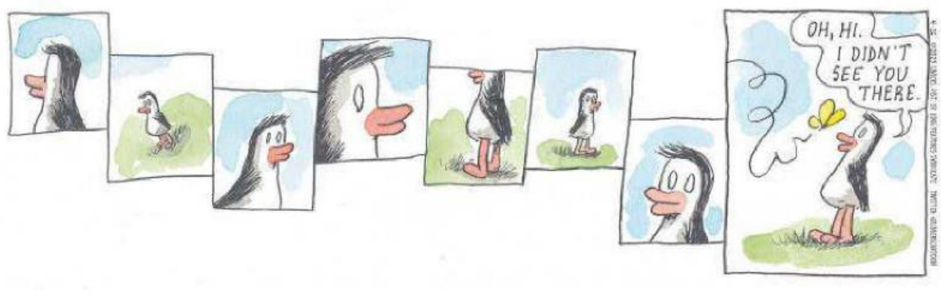
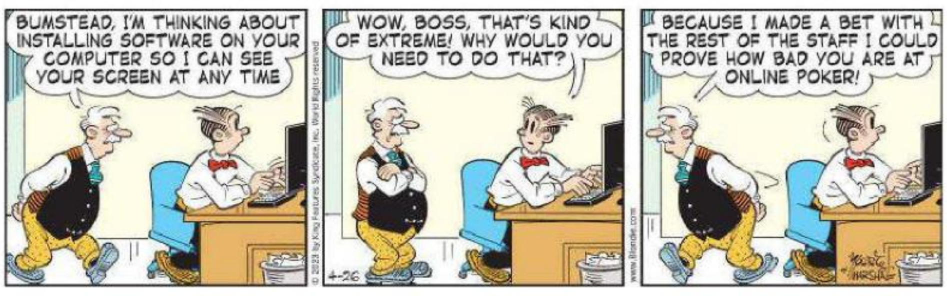
MACANUDO By Liniers


OH, HI. I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE.

BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall


BUMSTEAD, I'M THINKING ABOUT INSTALLING SOFTWARE ON YOUR COMPUTER SO I CAN SEE YOUR SCREEN AT ANY TIME
WOW, BOSS, THAT'S KIND OF EXTREME! WHY WOULD YOU NEED TO DO THAT?
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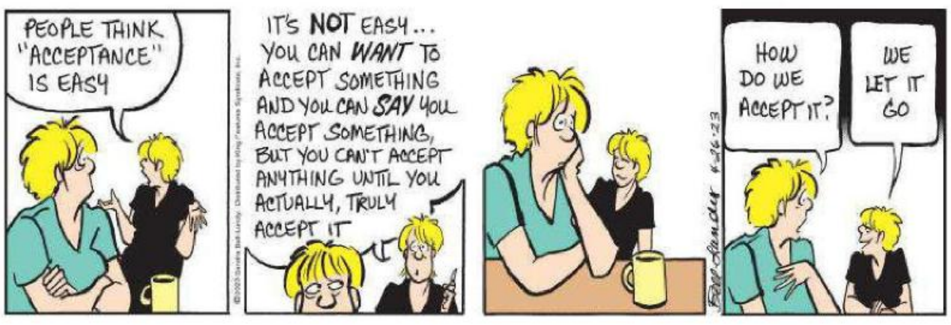
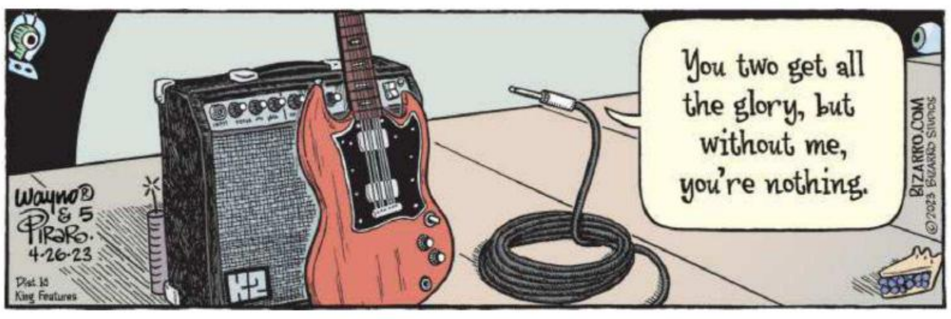
4-26
www.Blondie.com
BECAUSE I MADE A BET WITH THE REST OF THE STAFF I COULD PROVE HOW BAD YOU ARE AT ONLINE POKER!
YOUNG MARSHALL

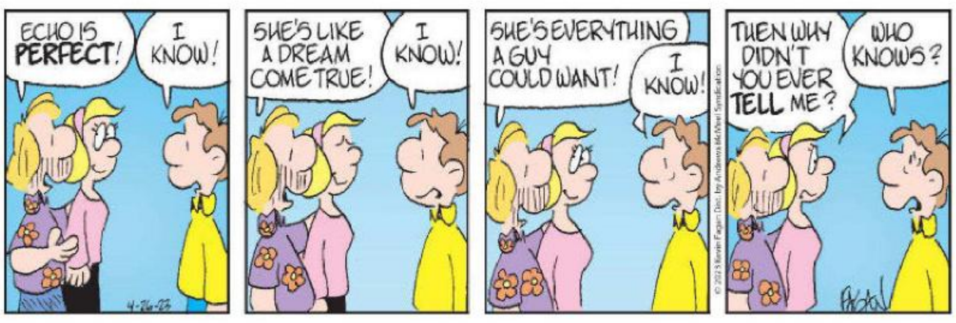
BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy


PEOPLE THINK "ACCEPTANCE" IS EASY
IT'S NOT EASY... YOU CAN WANT TO ACCEPT SOMETHING AND YOU CAN SAY YOU ACCEPT SOMETHING, BUT YOU CAN'T ACCEPT ANYTHING UNTIL YOU ACTUALLY, TRULY ACCEPT IT
4-26-23
HOW DO WE ACCEPT IT?
WE LET IT GO

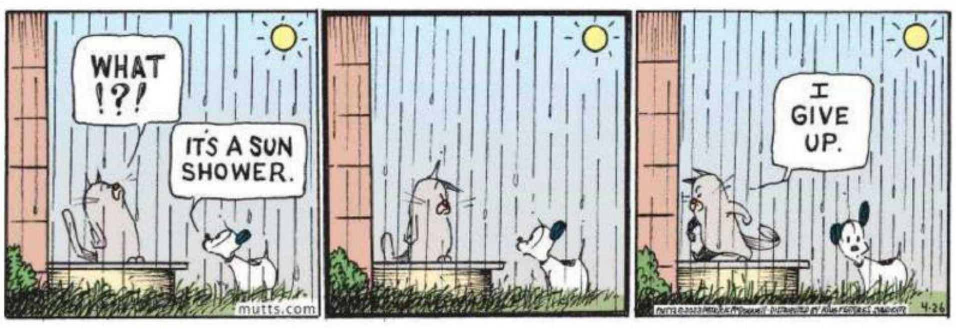
BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro


You two get all the glory, but without me, you're nothing.
Wayno & Piraro 4-26-23
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
©2023 BIZARRO STUDIOS

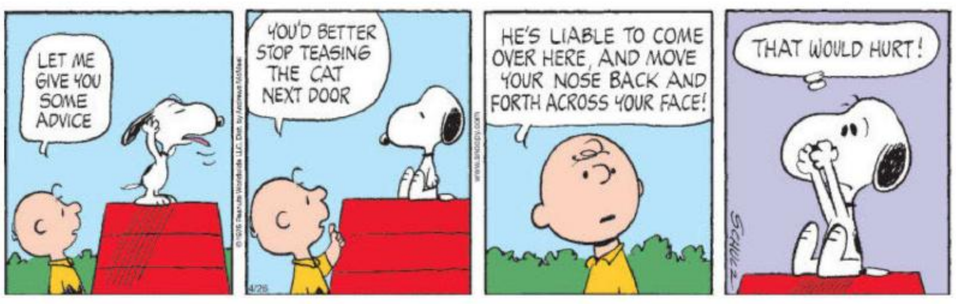
DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan


ECHO IS PERFECT!
I KNOW!
4-26-23
SHE'S LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE!
I KNOW!
SHE'S EVERYTHING A GUY COULD WANT!
I KNOW!
© 2023 Kevin Fagan Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU EVER TELL ME?
WHO KNOWS?
FAGAN

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell

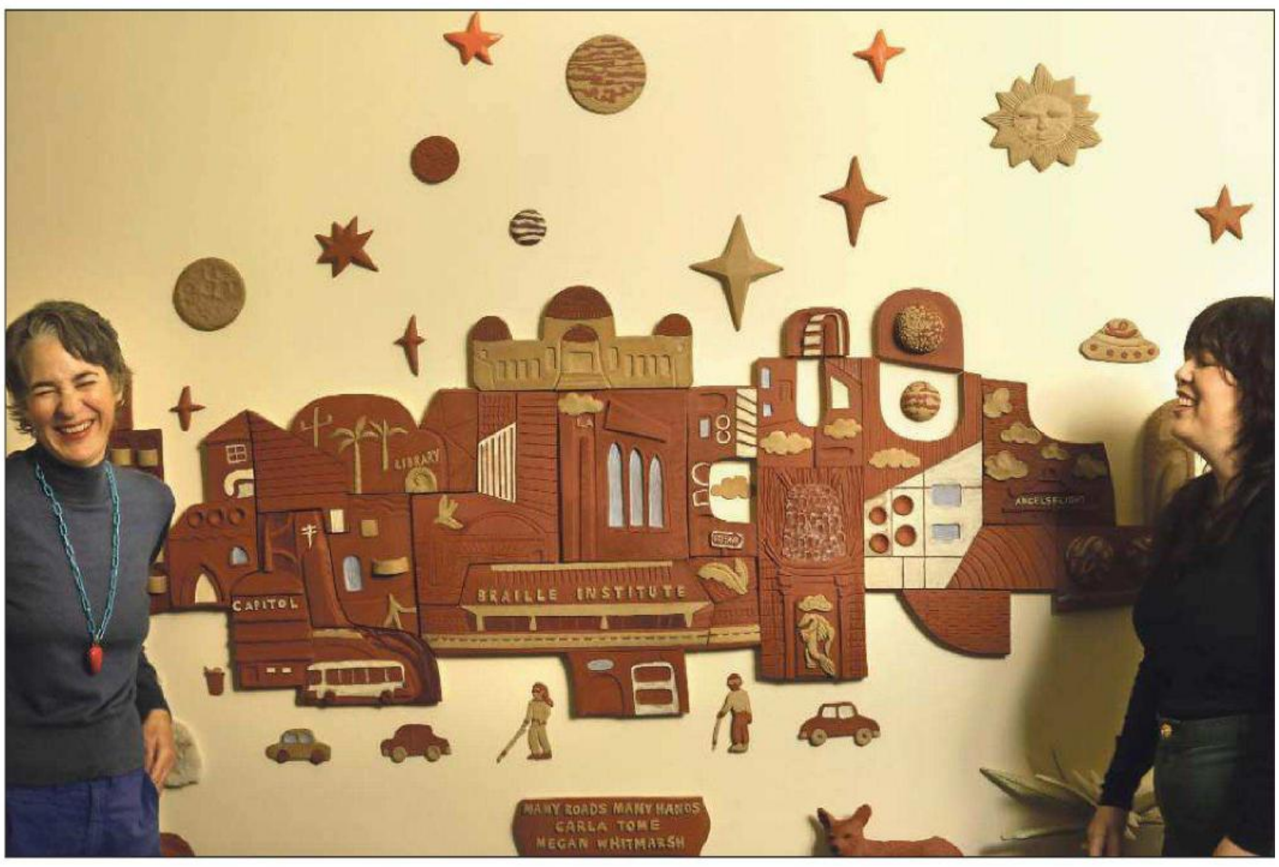

WHAT !?!
IT'S A SUN SHOWER.
mutts.com
I GIVE UP.
4-26

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz


LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE
YOU'D BETTER STOP TEASING THE CAT NEXT DOOR
4/26
HE'S LIABLE TO COME OVER HERE, AND MOVE YOUR NOSE BACK AND FORTH ACROSS YOUR FACE!
THAT WOULD HURT!
SCHULZ

A CERAMIC hawk and other animals included in the "Many Hands, Many Roads" mixed-media artwork.

'Sensory wall' feels like L.A.



Photographs by GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

MEGAN WHITMARSH, left, and Carla Tome capture the L.A. cityscape in a piece for the Braille Institute.

[**Wall,** from E1]
lents crafted from velvet, beads, cotton and gauze with satiny fringe. The Griffith Observatory and Capitol Records building are present along with a nearby Vermont Avenue bus station and faraway stars and the moon. There's even a flying spaceship to "welcome everybody," Whitmarsh jokes.

"It's called 'Many Hands Many Roads,' " Whitmarsh says of the piece, "because it's the many roads out of Los Angeles and the many roads of Los Angeles. And everyone's individual path."

The sensory wall is particularly interactive.

At one end there's a small, protruding cave made from clay and textiles. Inside are ceramic forms that look like bone fossils. They're impressions that staff and patrons made by squeezing clay between their hands. Children can reach into the cave and touch the tubular objects, resting their fingers in the indentations, which feel cool and smooth and curiously reassuring.

"It's like holding someone's hand," Tome says.

Small, hollow wooden eggs filled with seeds inside the cave are just one of many musical elements. There's a hanging triangle, a xylophone and wind chimes. Visitors will have access to a nearby recording studio and their audio pieces will play on a smart phone-activated speaker above the sensory wall.

"It's a living part of the piece," Whitmarsh says, pulling tiny felt bunnies out of a miniature ceramic apartment building on the wall. The youth program and child development program [here] can work with the children to make sound pieces — they can make animal sounds, create stories about these bunnies. They can make their own podcasts and have them play in here."

The sensory wall, like the Braille Institute's library itself — part of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Library of Congress — services the blind, visually impaired and print disabled, the last meaning those who can't read standard print mediums. So Whitmarsh and Tome also created a colorful companion mural in the lobby. It's a painted cityscape of L.A. that functions as a sort of diagram or illustrated map to the sensory wall, loosely mirroring it for those with some degree of sight. It features bright colors, bold shapes and scattered ceramic elements, such as a car or a fish, labeled in Braille. A large ceramic arrow directs visitors around the corner to the sensory wall.

The two works are a celebration of the city, Whitmarsh says. "Because L.A. just has so many layers and every kind of culture and idea and diversity all put together."

Whitmarsh and Tome are Highland Park neighbors and have been close friends for more than 20 years. This is their first collaboration and the process felt especially natural, Tome says, with each artist lending a complementary expertise.

CAPITOL
BRAILLE INSTITUTE

LISA LEPORE of the Braille Institute plans to use the sensory wall to teach art.

"We both have our own styles, but we work so great together," Tome says. "The entire wall is both of us equally."

Tome studied at the San Francisco Art Institute and is primarily a ceramicist as well as a painter, illustrator and woodworker. She's exhibited at L.A.'s Craft Contemporary and has taught art there as well as at East Los Angeles College and other locations.

Whitmarsh is a multidisciplinary artist who trained in painting and sculpture and is known for her textile work. She studied at Kansas City Art Institute and the University of New Orleans and has shown her work in galleries and museums internationally, including the Hammer Museum's 2018 "Made in L.A." biennial.

Braille Institute Director of Library Services Lisa Lepore was connected to the artists through the library director at LACMA, Alexis Curry. The institute's committee chose Whitmarsh and Tome for the commission because "right away, we just loved their energy, their curiosity, their work ethic and what they wanted to bring to this project," Lepore says.

Lepore plans to work with a blind artist in the future, and the institute is planing an art gallery for the blind and visually impaired, featuring artists and guest curators. "And we're going to work with our art instructors and students to riff off the sensory wall — to teach from it, have classes and make art from it," she says.

Whitmarsh and Tome took inspiration from the textured aesthetic of Ruth Asawa's 1970s bronze sculpture and fountain outside the Grand Hyatt San Francisco, as well as Judy Baca's "History of Highland Park" mural, painted with L.A. artists Joe Bravo, Sonya Fe and Arnold Ramirez, on the neighborhood's AT&T building.

Because the sensory wall is intended for children to touch, Whitmarsh and Tome spent extra care sanding the ceramics after every firing, so there would be no sharp edges. At the same time, they added elements for partially sighted visitors, such as a globe that glows in different colors.

"The challenge for us was to make it attractive, because some people are partially sighted," Whitmarsh says, "and also diverse in its tactility."

"And to make it art," Tome adds. "If you engage your audience you can raise the level of their expectations. We hope that this stimulates their creativity so maybe they want to make art."

The Braille Institute will unveil its new library at a free open house Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Whitmarsh and Tome will be on hand to introduce visitors to the sensory wall.

"I think there's this misconception," Lepore says, "that if someone can't see, the aesthetics don't matter. And that couldn't be further from the truth."

Lemon's ups and downs at CNN

[**Lemon,** from E1]
thought that someone in management would have had the decency to tell me directly." (The network took exception to Lemon's characterization of his departure, calling it "inaccurate." "[Lemon] was offered an opportunity to meet with management but instead released a statement on Twitter," the network said in a statement posted online.)

With his good looks, smooth voice and authoritative news delivery, both behind the anchor desk and in the field, Lemon had risen from correspondent to one of the network's top personalities since joining CNN in 2006. Often sent to explosive hot spots domestically and internationally, Lemon — CNN's most prominent Black news anchor — was also comfortable sharing intimate details of his personal life, and had celebrity status within the Black creative community in Hollywood.

MAKING NEWS

In recent years, though, the anchor appeared to squander his capital at CNN through a series of public missteps. Instead of covering the news, Lemon became the news, engaging in heated on-air clashes with his "CNN This Morning" co-hosts Poppy Harlow and Kaitlan Collins and sparking controversy with inflammatory statements about women's soccer and GOP presidential candidate Nikki Haley.

There were also questions about Lemon's journalistic judgment. During Jussie Smollett's 2021-22 trial for making a false police report about an attack in Chicago, the former "Empire" star testified that he discovered police did not believe his story when he received a text from Lemon letting him know he was being investigated. Lemon drew heavy criticism for covering the story without disclosing that he and Smollett were friends.

These dust-ups took place against a backdrop of broader tumult at the network. CNN lost veteran leader Jeff Zucker in February 2022, when he resigned over failing to disclose a relationship with his chief marketing officer. That April, CNN shuttered its dedicated streaming service, CNN+, shortly after its launch. And top management at new parent company Warner Bros. Discovery was open about its displeasure with the network's political leanings, telegraphing a move to the center.

Such problems mark a stark contrast with Lemon's prime-time peak, during which the star never looked less than comfortable. Lemon regularly and candidly addressed racial issues, and through his "Don's Take" segment took aim at "racist, white supremacist cowards" and President Trump. He once said Trump sent "armies of bigots to threaten my life."

Nor did Lemon hold back from being emotional, even personal, on air. He choked up and sang along with a song by Aretha Franklin when he announced the death of the Queen of Soul. He spoke of being devastated when his sister suddenly passed. He bragged often about his fiancé, Tim Malone. And he spoke about the difficulties of reporting on sexual assault, detailing how he was abused at a young age.

His lighter side was also frequently on display, particularly during his banter with former CNN anchor Chris Cuomo, whose show was the lead-in for Lemon's. The two would tease and argue with each other for several minutes, and their chemistry was so electric that they developed a podcast inspired by it called "The Handoff." "I love you, D. Lemon," Cuomo would say. (Cuomo was fired from CNN in 2021 after it was revealed that he was involved in the public-relations management of a sexual harassment scandal that forced his brother, Andrew, to resign as governor of New York.)

HUMAN RIGH
ROBE KEN HUM RIG

EVAN AGOSTINI Invision / AP

MEG KINNARD AP

DON LEMON faced backlash after saying GOP presidential hopeful Nikki Haley wasn't "in her prime."

Lemon did not share the same rapport with Harlow and Collins when he joined them on the "CNN This Morning" desk last November, a move seen as a step down for the newsman, who was leaving a platform with his name. Perhaps as a result, the morning show, one of the network's first major initiatives under Chief Executive Chris Licht, has been a ratings disappointment, attracting the smallest viewership of any program on the three major cable news networks. (By contrast, in the first quarter of 2021, "CNN Tonight" was the most-watched program at 10 p.m. among viewers ages 25 to 54, an audience coveted by advertisers.)

At times, the conversation could grow tense. During a discussion about women's soccer in December, for instance, Lemon said that men's soccer was "more interesting to watch ... The men's team makes more money. If they make more money, then they should get more money. The men's team makes more money because people are more interested in the men."

Harlow pushed back, telling Lemon she had a "big issue" with his comments and that men's teams make more money because they draw advertisers.

'PRIME' TIME

A bigger firestorm erupted Feb. 16 when the hosts discussed Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley's call for mental competency tests for politicians over 75 and term limits in Congress. Lemon suggested that Haley, 51, was no longer "in her prime." He added, "A woman is considered to be in her prime in her 20s and 30s, maybe 40s," and cited apparent Google searches to defend his stance.

Harlow, and later commentator Audie Cornish, pushed back at Lemon's remarks, saying the "prime" Lemon was referring to was a woman's reproductive years and that Haley was referring to one's political prime and mental capacity.

"Are you talking about prime for child-bearing, or prime for being president?" Harlow responded.

Liberals and conservatives alike weighed in with criticism of Lemon's comments. Haley, the former South Carolina governor and United Nations ambassador, responded to Lemon on Twitter and made an appearance on Fox News, calling him and his comments "sexist."

"Look, he made that comment. I wasn't sitting there saying sexist, middle-aged CNN anchors need to have mental competency tests, although he may have just proven that point," Haley said.

Lemon later apologized on Twitter, saying his words were "inartful and irrelevant, as colleagues and loved ones have pointed out, and I regret it." He also apologized to his colleagues, saying, "I believe that women of any age ... can do whatever they set their minds to. The people I am closest to in this organization are women. The people I seek counsel from most in this organization are women."

He was absent from the next three broadcasts of "CNN This Morning." Licht told staffers that Lemon had agreed to undergo training after a "frank and meaningful conversation" and would soon be returning as co-host, adding, "We take this situation very seriously."

But Lemon's troubles did not end when he returned to air. Earlier this month, he was the target of a scathing story in Variety that alleged Lemon has a history of misogynistic actions and "diva-like behavior." The piece contained accounts from more than a dozen former and current colleagues who "painted a picture of a journalist who flouted rules and cozied up to power all while displaying open hostility to many female co-workers."

The report also alleged that the 57-year-old newsman, who had survived CNN's regime changes, repeatedly charmed his way "out of facing any meaningful consequences."

Lemon was angered by the story, calling the claims "patently false anecdotes."

He got more attention a few weeks ago after engaging in a highly contentious argument with GOP presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy. Harlow sat by silently as the two men talked over each other. At one point, Lemon said, "You're sitting here, whatever ethnicity you are, 'splaining to me about what it's like to be Black in America. Sorry." (Ramaswamy is Indian American.)

The specific reasons for Lemon's firing have not yet come to light, but given the host's track record, he is not likely to remain quiet for long. In a Monday tweet about his firing, he said, "It is clear that there are some larger issues at play."

In the meantime, the network has already lined up two new Black stars for its prime-time firmament, announcing over the weekend the forthcoming "King Charles," a new weekly show set to premiere this fall featuring "CBS This Morning" host Gayle King and former basketball star Charles Barkley.

For his part, Lemon seems to have been aware of the microscope he was under. "I know I was not always perfect. No one is perfect," the host said in his final episode of "Don Lemon Tonight," acknowledging that the move to mornings was bittersweet. "There is immense pressure that comes with this job and, in particular, this time slot."

Advertising Supplement to the Los Angeles Times Wednesday, April 26, 2023

International Daily

Giant panda cub schooled in fighting skills by mother panda

MIANYANG -- An infra-red camera video footage has captured a cute moment of a mother wild giant panda schooling her baby cub in fighting skills in Laohegou section of the Giant Panda National Park in Pingwu County, Mianyang City of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The video shows how the panda cub is observing, imitating and practicing the fighting skills showed by the mother panda, articulating that the old saying of "the parent is the child's first teacher" couldn't be more true.

The giant panda mother, with her utmost patience, keeps on teaching her cub those skills, hoping one day the cub can become a kungfu panda and survive independently in the wild using those tactics.

Generally, the age at which pandas leave their mothers to live on their own is about 2 years old. Panda mothers will teach their babies how to get various surviving skills including fighting, according to a staff member working at the national park.

In recent years, Pingwu has made unremitting efforts in integrating protection and development and therefore the ecological environment of the Pingwu area of the Giant Panda National Park is getting increasingly better, and the biodiversity protection has achieved remarkable results.

Water-Sprinkling Festival makes splash in Yunnan

People of several Chinese ethnic minority groups began to celebrate the traditional Water-Sprinkling Festival on April 13 in southwest China's Yunnan Province.

The Water-Sprinkling Festival, regarded as one of the most important traditional festivals for the Dai, Achang, Bulang, Va, and De'ang ethnic groups, is a national intangible cultural heritage of China.

The festival often lasts for three to four days and falls in the middle of every April. Countries located in Southeast Asia also celebrate the festival every year.

During the days-long celebration, people of ethnic minority groups in China perform various kinds folk dances, and hold temple fairs and dragon boat races. They sprinkle water on each other to give best wishes for a lucky, happy and healthy life.

Qingdao's enterprises show resilience, vitality in boosting country's foreign trade

QINGDAO -- Qingdao's enterprises have presented great resilience and vitality in boosting the country's foreign trade, and made key contributions to the country's foreign business in the first quarter.

Earlier this year, a core production enterprise under the China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC) Corporation based in the city, Qingdao Sifang, signed a supply contract with Etihad Railway in the United Arab Emirates, which develops and operates UAE's national railway network, agreeing to provide high-speed bullet train units and a 15-year warranty for all related products, which marks the first time that China's passenger diesel multiple units have been exported to the UAE, which will help the latter establish trunk railway passenger transport services for the first time.

Officials from the company's market department said that the deal will further boost their sales in the whole gulf area.

The group also innovated its production system and made customized export trains to explore new markets overseas based on their different climatic conditions such as dusty weathers and extremely low temperature.

World's largest boat festival opens in Jiangsu

TAIZHOU -- The 16th China Wetland Eco-tourism Festival, also known as the 2023 Qintong Boat Festival, opened in east China's Taizhou City on Saturday, attracting over 500 decorative boats with more than 10,000 team members participating in the event.

The history of Qintong Boat Festival dates back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) when villagers boated on rivers to worship soldiers who fought in wars against enemies, showcasing people's wishes for a prosperous country and a peaceful and affluent life. To this day, it is the best-conserved and most ancient water festival in China.

Different from the dragon boat race, people compete using pole boats at the Qintong Boat Festival, with accompanying high-pitched gongs.

"The leading pole should be rowed powerfully and the other members should row their poles following the leading pole. When the members make concerted efforts and work hard together, the boat will go fast," said Li Ying, one of the racing participants.

A colorfully decorated boat cruise is another highlight of the event, attracting villagers from surrounding areas to showcase their exquisite boat decorations to tourists from all over the country.

"I am really happy to see that the folk customs here have been well carried forward and I think this is a very good phenomenon," said Xu Geng, one of the tourists from Nantong City of Jiangsu.

The Qintong Boat Festival was listed as a National Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2008 and was called the world's largest boat festival in 2009 in the Guinness Book of World Records. It has been an annual event held around the Tomb-Sweeping Day in Taizhou since the Ming Dynasty, with boat races as its highlight.

40th Weifang Int'l Kite Festival draws participants from 60 countries, regions

WEIFANG -- Over 600 kite enthusiasts from 60 countries and regions are showcasing their designs and skills at the 40th Weifang International Kite Festival, which kicked off on April 15 in the "kite capital" of Weifang City in east China's Shandong Province.

Weifang is a city boasting a long history of kite handicraft and won the title of Kite Capital back in 1988. More than 70 percent of the world's kites are made in Weifang.

Colorful kites in the sky are a hallmark of China's Qingming Festival or Tomb-sweeping Day, which is a time-honored traditional event where families pay tribute to the deceased and worship their ancestors, falling on April 5 this year.

The tradition of flying kites in China has existed for more than 2,000 years. Around Qingming, the weather is pleasant and it's a good time to head outdoors to fly a kite.

The kite designs often reflect elements of folk life and aesthetics, embodying the inheritance of Chinese culture.

Dr. Hans P. Boehme, vice president of International Kite Federation, who is from Germany, has had a passion for kites since he was a child. The 69-year-old man has attended the kite festival in Weifang at least 20 times.

"I love traditional kites. Not only Chinese ones, but also traditional kites from all kinds of countries. But the most colorful and the most specific ones are from China. And China has the oldest kite tradition, so it's more interesting than all those ones on the globe," Hans said.

Andreas Agren, 75-year-old, has been designing and flying kites for more than three decades. The Swedish man has been coming to the kite festival in China almost every year since 2001.

"I make kites from ideas that pop up in my head. So, my kites are always a little bit different from other people's kites. And I'm a little bit of an engineer, so I put a lot of engineering thinking in my kites," Agren said.

There are prizes for the most creative kite, the largest kite and the most traditional kite over the festival.

"While promoting and popularizing kites, we also promote the Chinese culture to the world, as Weifang's kites are getting more and more famous in the world," said Liu Zhiping, director of Competition Committee of the 19th World Kite Championships.

The annual event will last until May 21.

This special advertising supplement is printed and distributed in select areas by the Los Angeles Times Media Group. It does not involve the editorial staff of the Los Angeles Times.

2023 Qingdao Digital Culture Application Development Expo held successfully

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT QINGDAO:

"Qingdao Release" official Weibo QR code

"Qingdao Release" official WeChat QR code

The opening ceremony of the 2023 Qingdao Digital Culture Application Development Expo. **By Xing Zhifeng**

A slew of film and TV culture projects signed agreements in the 2023 Qingdao Film and TV Week. **By Xing Zhifeng**

Two grand events, namely the 2023 Qingdao Digital Culture Application Development Expo and the 2013 Qingdao Film and TV Week, held in Qingdao from April 6 to 9, reaped fruitful results.

As China's first comprehensive event dedicated to digital culture, the 2023 Qingdao Digital Culture Application Development Expo, with the theme of "new application, new experience, new consumption", attracted the participation of more than 500 companies and institutions from over 40 regions. The expo comprised exhibition, online platforms, forums and symposiums, release of new products and introduction of industry standards, and project roadshows. More than 200 industry leaders including China Animation Comic Game Group, Tencent, Himalaya, Inspur, Hisense and Alibaba have comprehensively showcased China's leading-edge novel modes of cultural industry, application scenarios and products including digital creativity, digital recreation and digital art. In the period, the nationwide digital culture integration service platform put up by Qingdao was officially put into operation, 26 key projects of digital culture signed agreements, and 7 standards on national cultural big data systems were promulgated.

Themed on "new technology, new vision and the new film metropolis", the 2023 Qingdao Film and TV Week attracted the participation of more than 800 industry practitioners and around 500 film enterprise, consisted of five modules and held 19 activities focusing on the industrialization of China's film and TV sector, aimed at fostering a favorable film and TV ecology, extending the industrial chain and polishing the "film city" image in all respects. In the week, 11 key film and TV projects signed agreements, as much as RMB23.131mln of subsidies have been granted to qualified film and TV enterprises, and the Shandong provincial 5G new high-definition video innovation and entrepreneurship community held a signing ceremony. The enterprises and institution present in the week co-launched the Qingdao Initiative, intended to boost communication and cooperation between worldwide "film cities" and embrace together the opportunities of the times.

Qingdao, long tied to film and TV industry, is among the "film cities" granted by the UNESCO and the first Chinese city to obtain the title. In 2021, Qingdao's trademark of "Film Journey" was officially approved by the China National Intellectual Property Administration and became China's first registered brand on film and TV industry. Since put into operation in 2018, the Qingdao Oriental Movie Metropolis has seen continuous iterations and upgrades, and emerged as a film and TV base across the film and TV production industrial chain in line with international standards. The Wandering Earth, a blockbuster produced in the Oriental Movie Metropolis created a box office miracle in the history of Chinese sci-fi films, chalked up a record level of Chinese sci-fi film production and made Chinese national film industry rise to fame.

(Wang Kai)

A number of digital cultural industry projects located in Qingdao

The matchmaking conference for foreign trade of digital culture.

The 2023 Qingdao Digital Culture Application Development Expo set up an exhibition and communication platform for the industry. A series of cooperation achievements has accumulated new drivers for the growth of digital cultural industry in Qingdao.

In the expo, 26 digital cultural industry projects signed agreements to locate in Qingdao. There are four strategic cooperation projects. Qingdao has inked strategic cooperation with China Animation Comic Game Group to build the national comprehensive service platform for animation comic games. The West Coast New Area of Qingdao signed strategic cooperation agreements with China News Development Shenzhen Co., Ltd., Renminwang Co., Ltd. and Fuxiyun Cultural Technology Co., Ltd. to co-build the nationwide digital culture integration service platform and construct the national demonstration project for cultural big data industry. 22 of them are industrial projects, covering many new-type cultural modes such as digital music, digital animation, digital film and TV and copyright protection. As these projects materialize, Qingdao's digital culture industry will become increasingly well-shaped.

Qingdao is rapidly gaining the high ground in the digital culture industry by facilitating cross-integration and two-way empowerment between digital science and technology and cultural industry. Qingdao, included among the first batch of Chinese national demonstration bases for the integration of culture with science and technology, ranked among the first batch of cities under incentive scheme of the State Council for cultural industry and tourism work last year. Qingdao excels remarkably in the size of cultural industry and the number of cultural science and technology-oriented companies. Aided by the digital culture expo, Qingdao has drawn e-commerce platforms of international renown such as Amazon, Oracle, eBay and Allegro to tap markets and seek common development, which is expected to stimulate Qingdao's digital culture industry and create new opportunities to diversify outstanding digital cultural supplies and enhance digital cultural service capability.

In the digital culture application development expo, Qingdao set up a comprehensive online service platform in line with high standards, which is provided with functions including digital cultural products release and transaction, project promotion and matchmaking, online live streaming, and live streaming of the metaverse conference. Qingdao vows to build it into a domestically influential platform for release, exhibition and transaction of digital cultural products, and to gather nationwide and even worldwide digital cultural resources to boost industrial development.

(Wang Kai / Wang Meng)

The expo attracts the participation of more than 200 industry-leading companies including China Animation Comic Game Group and Tencent.

A raft of new "black technology" scenarios unveiled in Qingdao digital culture expo

The "digital Great Wall" where visitors can "travel through time and space", the 3D version A Thousand Miles of Rivers and Mountains and the giant dragon who can fly though walls and the virtual broadcasting scenario where the background can change anytime, etc. In the 2023 Qingdao Digital Culture Application Development Expo, the exhibition pavilion of cultural industry digitization prioritized displaying novel cultural modes and products including digital creativity, digital broadcasting, digital recreation, digital art and digital collection, and more than 80 industry-leading Chinese companies such as Tencent, Himalaya and China Comic Animation Game Group showcased application scenarios and typical cases of cultural industry digitization, exposing digital intelligence to visitors. The pavilion of the integration of science and technology with cultural tourism collectively displayed digital technologies of leading Chinese tech enterprises and their widespread applications in culture and tourism, extending the development boundary of cultural industry with limitless science and technology.

On the back of its cloud gaming technology, Tencent has managed for the first time in the world to restore digitally cultural heritage of the largest scale in a millimeter-level, high-precision, immersive and cross-interactive manner. Visitors can travel around the Great Wall virtually as well as repair the Great Wall online. In the booth of Inspur, the Inspur virtual broadcasting integration system enables synthesis, rendering and output of multi-video layers including 3D scenarios, images and PPT in real time, and generates virtual broadcasting scenarios featuring low delay, high frame rates and high-definition pictures. In the digital version of A Thousand Miles of Rivers and Mountains, jointly developed by a cultural creation company and the Imperial Palace Museum, visitors can utterly immerse themselves in the work. The dynamic capture device of China Comic Animation Game Group, which has a total of 15 capture points, combines optics with inertia technology in an innovative manner, and can drive any virtual man or any image in real time with the help of a laser positioning tower and a set of wearable devices. As the current most leading-edge research field, the digital human faces generation and animation platform, which also made its appearance in the expo, can help solve difficult problems in creation across all walks of life by combining with many intelligent tools including animation production, video creation, digital human broadcasting and graphic design, and provide the general public with popular and low-threshold creative content production tools. To cater to the needs of cultural conservation institutions and museums, Hikvision resorts to intelligent IOT and big data to gather security, fire fighting and anti-thunder data in cultural relic protection, aimed at perceiving and identifying in an intelligent manner potential hazards for cultural relics safety and enabling cultural relics conservation institutions to use information technology to keep their archives.

(Zhou Wei/Wang Meng)

In the digital culture expo, many "black technology" products are unveiled every day. **By Xing Zhifeng**

Guests scan wechat codes to make exclusive sound postcards. **By Xing Zhifeng**

2023 Qingdao Film and TV Week nurtures emerging creators

Venture capital plays the role of a "talent scout" and "facilitator" in the burgeoning film industry.

Venture capital is a "frequenter" in the Qingdao Film and TV Expo. The Lingshan Bay Film and TV Venture Capital Conference, which was launched as soon as the Qingdao Film and TV Expo was founded in 2019. is dependent on Qingdao's film and TV industry and emerges as an international brand of venture capital in Qingdao, providing a diversified communication platform for the new generation of film practitioners. Over the recent five years, the section of venture capital, part of the Qingdao Film and TV Expo, has become increasingly diversified in both content and form, thereby enriching the ecology of venture capital industry in Qingdao and even across China.

In the 2023 Qingdao Film and TV Week, the "Golden Key Venture Capital Project", a well-known Chinese film and TV venture capital institution initiated by famous Chinese directors, gathered the directors, actors and actresses with the greatest market appeal, and the most professional investors and producers, aimed at helping young creators get their scripts done and shown.

In the film and TV week, the Qingdao Municipal Bureau of Culture and Tourism and the West Coast New Area briefed the Several Policies of Qingdao on Boosting High-quality Development of Film and TV Industry and the Several Policies of Qingdao West Coast New Area on Supporting Construction of High-standard Qingdao Film and TV Base respectively, and fulfilled the support policies by conferring cheques on outstanding film and TV companies. The sheer sincerity of the film city has enabled the film and TV industry to mushroom. The Qingdao film and TV base is home to more than 800 companies, where a number of films with high box office, such as The Wandering Earth, were shot.

Moreover, the 2023 Qingdao Film and TV Week specially launched the "Sea Surface" young filmmakers project and held a series of activities themed on "new concept screenwriting", offering incubation platforms to young film professionals and injecting vigor to the film and TV industry for high-quality development. *(Li Deyin)*

A distant view of the Grand Theatre of Starlight in the Oriental Movie Metropolis. **By Han Xing**

Information Office of Qingdao Municipal People's Government

Qingdao ranked among the 2022 cities with innovative business environment

The 2022 Qingdao Entrepreneurs Day event. **By Fu Xuejun**

The 2022 Urban Business Environment Innovation Report was unveiled in Media Center, Beijing on April 3. Qingdao has been included among the 2022 innovative cities in terms of urban business environment, two innovative practices of which, namely "public service optimization" and "regulatory mechanism innovation", are incorporated into the report.

Employing the six-dimensional framework system with innovation at the core, the above report announced the 2022 innovative cities in terms of urban business environment by observing and analyzing business environment innovation practices of municipalities directly under the Central Government, capitals of provinces and autonomous regions, municipalities with independent planning status as well as cities featuring robust economic activities with a GDP of more than RMB1tn.

Over the recent years, Qingdao has focused on more convenience in going through formalities, law-based governance and justice, strong cost competitiveness and the campaign to built itself into a city suitable for living and working, made sustained efforts to optimize and upgrade its business environment, endeavored to build a demonstration city boasting market-oriented, law-based and international first-class business environment, persistently leading Chinese cities in business environment evaluation.

Qingdao has launched this year a special campaign on improving its business environment, which underscores the ten areas, namely politics and law, development and reform, industry and information technology, commerce, housing and urban-rural construction, transportation, land planning, market supervision, ecological environmental protection and administrative examination and approval, paces up with world-class levels, and optimizes and improves its policy, service, factor, market, law-based governance and cultural environment, so as to advance in its ranking of business environment among the first tier and make market entities increasingly satisfied. *(Yu Bo)*

CHINA
Political Map

Qingdao Port eligible for tax refund policies for ports of departure as a port of exit

Qingdao Port would be eligible for tax refund policies for ports of departure as a port of exit as of April 1, according to a joint circular from the Chinese Ministry of Finance, the General Administration of Customs of the PRC and the State Taxation Administration, terminating the history of north China having no waterborne port of exit and expanding the scope of cooperation for Qingdao Port.

Tax refund policies for ports of departure are innovative practices for implementing export rebates. To be specific, outward goods transported via the port of departure to the port of exit for export are entitled to immediate application for tax refunds once their leaving the port of departure, evidence proving export has indeed happened, is confirmed. The policies have enabled export-oriented companies to spend much less time on tax refund application.

The approved supporting ports of departure for Qingdao Port comprise 16 ports across 7 municipalities and cities including Shandong, Liaoning, Hebei, Tianjin, Jiangsu, Guangxi and Hainan, namely Yingkou Port, Dalian Port, Qinhuangdao Port, Tangshan Port, Tianjin Port, Huanghua Port, Binzhou Port, Dongying Port, Weihai Port, Rizhao Port, Lianyungang Port, Dafeng Port, Qinzhou Port and Yangpu Port.

(Liu Lanxing)

A terminal in Qingdao Port. By Sun Jintao

Qingdao inks 14 projects at 3rd CGBP

The projects signing ceremony site of the third CGBP.

The eastern coastal city of Qingdao, Shandong province forged great success at the third Conference of Great Business Partners (CGBP), with 14 projects signed involving a total investment of 52.21 billion yuan ($7.6 billion).

These projects cover industries like next-generation information technology, high-end equipment, integrated circuits, new energy, new materials, digital economy, and modern logistics, which will inject new vitality into Qingdao's high-quality development, said Qingdao officials.

Themed "Forging Partnerships for High-quality development in Shandong", the third CGBP was held in Jinan, capital of Shandong province, from March 28 to 30. It featured nine themed activities, including an opening ceremony and six parallel forums.

On March 28, Qingdao held a city promotional event in Jinan, which was attended by a number of government officials, as well as senior representatives from Fortune Global 500 companies and large-scale multinational corporations.

On March 30, a group of business leaders took part in an inspection tour of Qingdao where they learned about the city's social and economic development, business environment, and investment policies. *(chinadaily.com.cn)*

Qingdao bags multiple China standardization awards

The high-speed EMUs developed by CRRC Qingdao Sifang Co., Ltd.

Many China national standards and association standards, the formulation of which are presided over or participated by certain Qingdao-based organizations, have won awards in the recently-held first China standardization conference.

Among the award-winning standard projects, five standards, the formulation of which were participated by CRRC Qingdao Sifang Co., Ltd. and CRRC Qingdao Sifang Rolling Stock Research Institute Co., Ltd., won the first prize, two standards, the formulation of which were participated separately by Technology Center of Qingdao Customs and Qingdao Yongchang Plastic Industry Co., Ltd., clinched the second prize, and three standards, the formulation of which were presided over by Qingdao Haier Smart Technology R&D Co., Ltd., CRRC Qingdao Sifang Co., Ltd. and Qingdao Metro Group Co., Ltd., received the third prize.

The "China standard innovation contribution award", appraised and selected every two years, is the greatest national level honor in relation to Chinese standardization. To date, a total of 23 international, national, industrial, association and local standards, the formulation of which have been presided over or participated by Qingdao, have won China standard innovation contribution awards, one person from Qingdao received the lifetime achievement award and one person clinched the outstanding contribution award. Qingdao leads its Chinese peers in the number of awards received.

(Wu Shuai)

Qingdao to build into a globally competitive ultra-high-definition video industry base

In the three years to come, Qingdao will turbocharge the development of ultra-high-definition video industry in a comprehensive and integrated manner that encompasses "manufacturing, content and application", build itself into a domestic first-class and globally competitive manufacturing base and demonstration area for application of ultra-high-definition video terminal products. Qingdao sets up the goal that the ultra-high-definition industry size will total more than RMB150bln by 2025.

In regard to the layout of the industry chain, Qingdao will prioritize developing display driver chips, AI chips, power chips and image sensor chips that are geared to 4K/8K, and work on such key technologies as ultra-high-definition imaging, audio algorithms, AI video identification. Regarding supplies of content, content producers are encouraged to prioritize 4K content, give due consideration to 8K content accumulation and make the existing content pivot towards 4K/8K and AR/VR. In terms of applications and popularization, Qingdao will pilot the construction of demonstration communities for 4K applications and continue to improve network infrastructure and service supply on top of deepening applications in industrial domains.

(Sun Xin)

Qingdao-based seawater desalination project shortlisted for the annual best project of the Global Water Awards

The Global Water Summit has recently notified Qingdao Water Group Co., Ltd. that the extension project of Baifa seawater desalination plant (second phase) of Qingdao Seawater Desalination Co., Ltd., which belongs to the Group, was shortlisted for the "annual most outstanding seawater desalination project" in the Global Water Awards. This is China's first seawater desalination project that has been shortlisted for the award.

Launched as early as 2005 and dubbed as the Oscar in water industry, the Global Water Awards are unveiled once a year by the Global Water Summit. The other projects shortlisted for the award together with the extension project of Qingdao Baifa desalination plant comprise the third phase of Saudi Arabian seawater desalination project that can provide potable water to a population of 2 million and the seawater desalination project in Abu Dhabi, the UAE with a daily capacity of more than 900,000 cubic meters.

With a designed capacity of 100,000 cubic meters per day, the extension project of Qingdao Baifa Seawater Desalination Plant (second phase) adopts the technique of "air flotation+ultra-filtration+reverse osmosis+mineralization". After put into operation, the project will become China's largest demonstration municipal water supply project in regard to seawater desalination.

(Wu Shuai)

Qingdao's first "multi-destination itinerary" marine tourist route opens up navigation

The tourist routes between the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Center and the Qingdao Cruise Home Port was recently open to navigation. As Qingdao's first marine tourism and sightseeing route featuring "multi-destination itinerary", the route incorporates for the first time the old urban area in west Qingdao into the marine sightseeing network, marking that Qingdao's west sea route, which starts at the Olympic Sailing Center, has fully opened to traffic.

The route between the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Center and the Cruise Home Port is among the 12 key routes that Qingdao plans to build elaborately. Departing every Sunday from the Olympic Sailing Center at 16:30 and from the Cruise Home Port at 17:50, the route takes about one hour in a single journey. In the voyage, tourist ships pass by many landmarks in the city, including Fushan Bay, Eight Great Passes, Little Qingdao, Zhanqiao Pier, Badaxia and Tuandao. The route connects the Undersea World terminal, the Ferry Terminal and the Cruise Home Port and stops at the Undersea World, enabling the sort of marine tourism and sightseeing featuring "multi-destination itinerary".

Qingdao's first youth-oriented "Marine Bus" route will focus on candle music, launch the utterly new "enjoying the sunset on the sea" according to sunset hours in different seasons, combine together music, dance, architecture, nature, art and other cultural elements, integrate delicious food, seascape and fabulous sunset, dig out new highlights and attractions of marine tourism in Qingdao and work to offer tourists immersive sightseeing in both auditory and visual senses.

Before the route opened up navigation, it is reported that Qingdao has put into operation as many as eight core routes from the Olympic Sailing Center to the Undersea World, the Cruise Home Port, Cross Fushan Bay, Three Bays, Qingdao, and from Ferry Terminal to Huangdao Ferry Terminal, etc. The four routes, namely Badaxia-Zhanqiao Pier, Olympic Sailing Center-Little Qingdao, Olympic Sailing Center-Lingshan Island and Olympic Sailing Center-Polar West, are under fast planning. In the future, the 12 sea routes will link up coastal scenic spots across the districts or county-level cities including Shinan, Shibei, Laoshan and West Coast New Area to present the cityscape from the sea.

(Ma Xiaoting)

Information Office of Qingdao Municipal People's Government

Editor: Yang Xing; Designer: Wei Qi

China's first Fujian cuisine-themed museum unveiled

Fujian Cuisine Culture Museum in sheer bliss

The Fujian Cuisine Culture Museum, unveiled on the morning of March 25, is China's first museum themed on Fujian cuisine and among Fujian province's cultural symbols.

The Fujian Cuisine Culture Museum comprises four permanent exhibition halls, namely Time-honored Fujian Cuisine, Authentic Fujian Cuisine, Famous Restaurants and Grand Banquets, Dissemination and Inheritance, integrates exhibition, historic culture, experience and tasting, skill inheritance, and delicacy and business, and emerges as a cultural complex of Fujian Cuisine which boasts multiple business activities, high technology, immersive experience and distinctive features.

Touring around the museum, visitors can access abundant and precious historical data, stories and anecdotes on Fujian cuisine and have a glimpse of geographic distribution, food ingredients and diet customs of various schools of Fujian cuisine as well as the origin, evolution and development of Fujian cuisine culture.

the "Classical Fujian Cuisine" exhibition area, "bubble" icons of 156 classical Fujian dishes, represented by Fuzhou cuisine, take turns appearing on the big screen. By touching the "bubbles", visitors can know about the dishes' raw materials and cooking techniques.

Inside the museum, Chun Feng Lou, An Tai Lou and Ju Chun Lou, the three famous restaurants in the history of Fujian cuisine, have been collectively reproduced on a street. Located on the third floor of the museum, Fu Yan Guan, filled with the hustle and bustle, has opened for business. Built on the theme of Fuzhou culture, Fu Yan Guan can hold nearly 700 people for dining at the same time. *(Lan Xiunan)*

The audience were listening to stories on Fujian cuisine in the front of the restored An Tai Lou. (Photo by Lin Shuangwei)

Famous musicians gather to shoot MV for Fuzhou Music Map

Dedicated to making Fuzhou's voice better heard in the world

"Jasmine hall, in full blossom, receive guests on Jinji Mountain." "Ink with delicate fragrance penetrates ancient city wall, Fujian culture dates back more than one millennium." In March, renowned musicians at home and abroad came all the way and gathered in Fuzhou to shoot MV for the music album titled Fuzhou Music Map that embodied their utmost efforts and to dedicate themselves to making Fuzhou voice better heard in the world.

Fuzhou Music Map is among a series of books on fostering international brands of Fuzhou culture. Presented in the form of music, the book turns to beautiful melodies, which go beyond borders and language barriers, to foster a new urban cultural representation of Fuzhou that is distinctive, local, international and symbolic.

The 12 songs, included in the first season "Parks", represent 12 parks in Fuzhou, give play to the natural endowment of Fuzhou featuring blue waters, green hills and perfect integration of dwellers and the city, and present the favorable ecological well-being of residents in Fuzhou, a city that boasts over 1,000 parks.

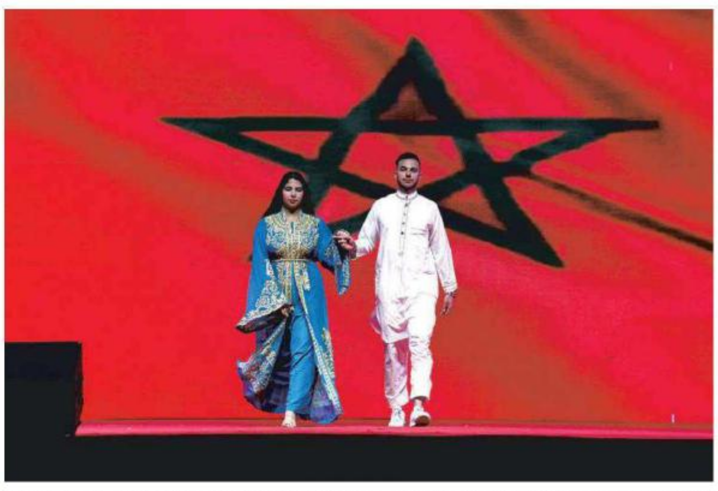
Chen Fei, Chinese culture ambassador and cross-Straits goodwill ambassador, served as general producer of the project. Zhang Xiaofu, renowned at home and abroad and reputed as "the most active cross-discipline composer among contemporary Chinese musicians", created Zhimo Youxiang (Delicately Fragrant Paper and Ink), Marc Battier, a famous French composer and musicologist, wrote Travel Around Fuzhou Changle Xihu on a Rainy Day, Chen Yong, a famous composer entitle to the State Council special allowance, composed Immersed in Lucky Strike, Chen Jianping, a veteran musician from Taiwan, produced Jiangxin Park, Lai Dongfang and Meng Fengmin, famous local musicians, unveiled their works, namely Come to Visit Jasmine Hall and Have an Appointment in Fuzhou Forest Park.

(Guan Shu)

Chen Fei, general producer of Fuzhou Music Map, was shooting MV in a park.

Song and dance performances of Fuzhou-born overseas Chinese

The voice of overseas Chinese loudly heard at the Heart of the Minjiang River


Moroccan costume show by overseas students from Morocco (Photo by Wang Simin)

[Fuzhou Evening News] With the theme of "Making Overseas Chinese Voice Heard with Dance at the Dazzling Heart of the Minjiang River", song and dance performances of overseas Chinese from Fuzhou, intended to showcase the spiritual outlook of overseas youth from Fuzhou and the charisma of Fuzhou as an international city, was held at the Heart of the Minjiang River on the evening of March 18. The event attracted large numbers of Fuzhou citizens,countrymen residing abroad and tourists.

The event comprised three parts, namely "Gather in Minjiang River-Tribute to Youth", "At the Height of Youth and Vigour-Dedicated to Building Fuzhou" and "Thriving and Prospering-Ode to China". There were classical and elegant ancient Chinese-style costume performance as well as Cartoon, a hip-pop program, Poker, a magic show, and traditional Moroccan costume show by overseas students from Morocco and Liberia.

The event is reported to aim to hold cultural events at the Heart of the Minjiang River on a regular basis, give play to the role of overseas Chinese to introduce song and dance performances of all styles from other countries, make "Fuqiao" cultural brand better known and strive to increase the popularity of the Heart of the Minjiang River as a landmark.

(Mao Xiaochun)

Dadao River and Huichun Lake in South Park to "join hands"

Sanbaocheng embraces "blissful water route"

[Fuzhou Evening News] Fuzhou is ramping up efforts to build the "Guangminggang-South Park Water Route for Present Tribute", an inland river tourism route of historic culture. The first phase of the inland tourism route, Datiegang-Dadao River-South Park is expected to be put into operation at the end of this year. Then, pleasure boats can steer into the Nangong River Estuary Neighborhood and show tourists around Sanbaocheng, Fuzhou on water.

The route extends about 1.4 kilometers one way. After Dadao River and Huichun Lake are linked up, tour industry along Huichun Lake can be invigorated and tourists can travel around South Park by boat along the new route.

For the purpose of achieving better interaction between inland river tourism routes and tourists, it is suggested to build some landscapes like stone bridges, corridors and pavilions, add more spaces for tourist leisure, increase the interaction between water surfaces and river banks and create more internet-famous sites along new routes according to the features of neighborhoods.

The Nangong River Estuary Neighborhood, an central area of Sanbaocheng Fuzhou, is known as a historical and cultural block that integrates memories of the Maritime Silk Road, tribute-bestow culture and exotic features. As the tourism route Datiegang-Dadao River-South Park is built, Sanbaocheng will embrace a "blissful water route", and tourists can travel around Sanbaocheng Fuzhou by water. *(Li Jinqing)*

"Minjiang Reception Hall" cruise ship will appear on the night tour route

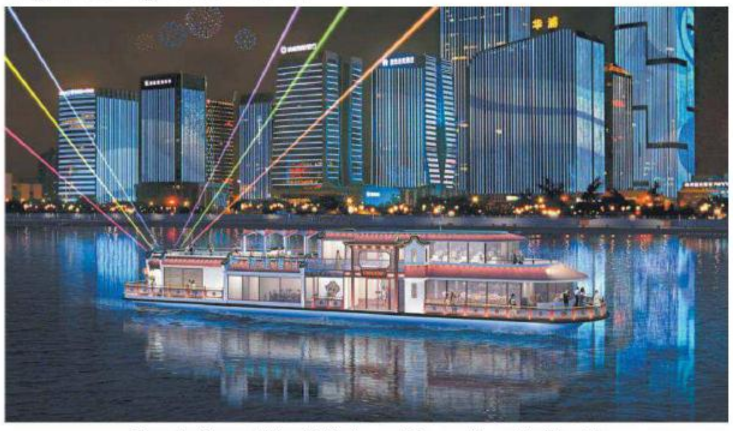
This is an electric cruise ship, full of charm and attractions

[Fuzhou Evening News] Around the 2024 Spring Festival, a new energy cruise ship with the characteristics of the capital of Fujian will be added to the Minjiang River night cruise route. Recently, Fujian Bafang Maritime Passenger Transport Co., Ltd., Fujian Funing Shipbuilding Heavy Industry Co., Ltd., and Wuxi Dongfang Shipbuilding High Performance Boat Engineering Co., Ltd. held a signing ceremony for the Minjiang high-end new energy cruise ship "Minjiang Reception Hall" project. It is expected that around next Spring Festival, the "Minjiang Reception Hall" ship will officially appear on the Minjiang night cruise route.

The cruise ship signed this time is an electric cruise ship that combines charm and taste. The "Minjiang Reception Hall" is designed to have a total length of 40.9 meters and a total width of 10.8 meters, and can carry 212 passengers. It uses pure lithium batteries to achieve zero pollution and low noise.

It is worth mentioning that the cruise ship adopts the "etiquette system" pattern of the vestibule, nave, and backyard followed by Fuzhou's ancient architectural culture, deeply integrating the cultural characteristics of Fuzhou's three square and seven lane ancient houses, as well as the "blessing" cultural symbols such as jasmine flowers and oil-paper umbrellas, presenting the classic beauty of "stacked pavilions, winding and long", adding a touch of beautiful scenery to the Minjiang River night tour route.

(Jiang Juanjun)


Rendering of the "Minjiang Reception Hall" ship.

Hainan expo showcases products for modern consumption styles

For those seeking a trendy, on-the-move lifestyle, looking to reduce their carbon footprint, or simply wanting to up the comfort and convenience level in their daily life, some of the world's top 500 firms and industry-leading players at the Hainan Expo in south China have all the answers.

Upwards of 3,300 high-quality, well-known brands from 65 countries and regions are gathering at the third China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE), also Asia's largest premium consumer products expo, which kicked off Monday in Haikou, capital city of south China's tropical island province of Hainan.

Themed "Share Open Opportunities, Co-create a Better Life", the expo aims to boost consumption recovery and upgrading, and provide opportunities for companies worldwide to share the Chinese market.

Out of a total exhibition space of 120,000 square meters, the area for international exhibition covers as many as 80,000 square meters, or two thirds of the total, this year.

One of the eight pavilions in the limelight this year feature 191 brands brought by 38 companies from countries including Italy, the United States, Singapore and Japan, which cover areas such as new energy vehicles, sports, electronics and services trade, offering not only the latest products, but also a colorful range of non-conventional and chic lifestyle choices.

Tmall Global, China's largest cross-border e-commerce platform, is showcasing its products and solutions for cycling, which has been gaining traction among the urban youths. The platform saw its sales volume of cycling-related products up by 700 percent last year.

"Cycling has become an immensely popular choice in young people's social life nowadays, and it represents a low-carbon lifestyle as well. With this, there has been an increasing demand for finished bicycles. What we have here is a completely manually made bike, which has also become a highly sought-after product in overseas markets," said an exhibitor from Tmall Global.

Few can beat an experience like a perfect Recreational vehicles (RV) camping road trip, which is why Germany's Hobby brought its family caravan and motorhome models to the expo, with the aim of attracting customers from the ever-growing middle class in China.

"The dinette booth we are sitting on can fold out and turn into a double bed. It features a cozy and home-like design style," said an exhibitor from the company, when showing an RV model equipped with a dining room, a kitchen, a sleeping quarter and a bathroom in a 12-square meter-indoor area.

Riding China's coffee market boom, homegrown and foreign brands alike are looking to grab a bigger share. Rhea, an Italian high-end coffee machine manufacturer, is among the first-time participants at the expo.

"The brewing technology of this machine enables the adjustment of pressure, pre-soak time duration and to what degree the beans are ground, making sure that each type of coffee tastes different from another," said an exhibitor from the company while introducing one of its top products.

Among the innovative products constantly undergoing upgrade is smart massage chairs, in which China has remained a center of the global industrial chain. At the expo, Singapore-based OSIM International is showcasing how its chairs can offer a personalized experience for users.

"Now with your hands placed on the biosensors, the chair can monitor your heart rate, your respiratory rate, and how relaxed your muscles are, before presenting you a set of data on your stress level. Based on your score, it can offer you the most suitable massage procedure," said an exhibitor from OSIM International, as a visitor tried out one of the company's chairs.

China Dance Festival held in Yunnan

The eighth China Dance Festival kicked off on April 11 in Kunming City, southwest China's Yunnan Province, home to ethnic minority groups good at singing and dancing, marking the biennial event's return to its birthplace after 18 years.

Attendees enjoyed a feast of costumed choreography at this year's opening ceremony. Large troupes performed dances based on themes varying from Chinese history to rural life and to harmony between humans and nature.

During the ceremony, 20 dance works were presented with the Lotus Award, China's leading honor in professional dance.

Luo Bin, vice chairman of China Dancers Association (CDA), shared his personal views in how to vie for the award.

"For dance works that aspire to win the Lotus Award in the future, more efforts should be put into enhancing the integration of all forms of art and improving the expression of social life," said Luo.

Canton Fair adds new section for new energy vehicles to attract global buyers

GUANGZHOU -- The 133rd session of the China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair, has opened a new section to showcase cutting-edge new energy and intelligent-connected vehicles, as well as supporting facilities to meet a growing demand for emission cuts.

Launched in 1957, the time-honored fair is the oldest and largest comprehensive international trading event in China, and is seen as a barometer of China's foreign trade.

This year's Canton Fair kicked off on Saturday in south China's Guangzhou, and is scheduled to run until May 5 in three separate phases.

In the featured section, exhibitors have put on display a variety of products from unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) to driverless minibuses, covering land-air logistics patterns, and have debuted the latest auto parts and driving systems in attempts to attract buyers.

The UAVs have been in the spotlight at the section, and the three different UAV models can provide services including low-altitude manned flight, high-rise fire-fighting and freight transportation.

"The (freight) UAV has a cargo hold that can hold more than 250 kilograms, which we hope can make air transportation in the urban areas easier and faster in the future," said He Tianxing, the vice president of a Guangzhou-based intelligent technology company.

China exported 78,000 new energy vehicles in March, up 3.9 times year-on-year. In the first quarter, 248,000 new energy vehicles were exported from the country, an increase of 1.1 times year-on-year, according to data from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

In addition to the vehicle section, this year's Canton Fair has also added new sections for smart manufacturing, maternal and infant products, and the "silver-haired" economy. These additions attracted 9,000 first-time attendees, featuring a number of leading players in the manufacturing sector.

Cute giant panda cubs staying on breeder's tail for more food

Chengdu Panda Base

Two cute giant panda cubs at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in southwest China's Sichuan Province are seen in a video footage moving almost simultaneously to follow closely behind the breeder, hoping for more food.

The video footage provided by the base shows that upon seeing the breeder appearing with food in her hands, the two panda cubs would follow the movement of the breeder at the same time and stay on her tail at mealtimes.

The more competitive cub even tried to block the other cub's access to food by putting the paw on the other's head, hoping to get more than its share of food. However, the trick did not fool the breeder and both cubs got fed.

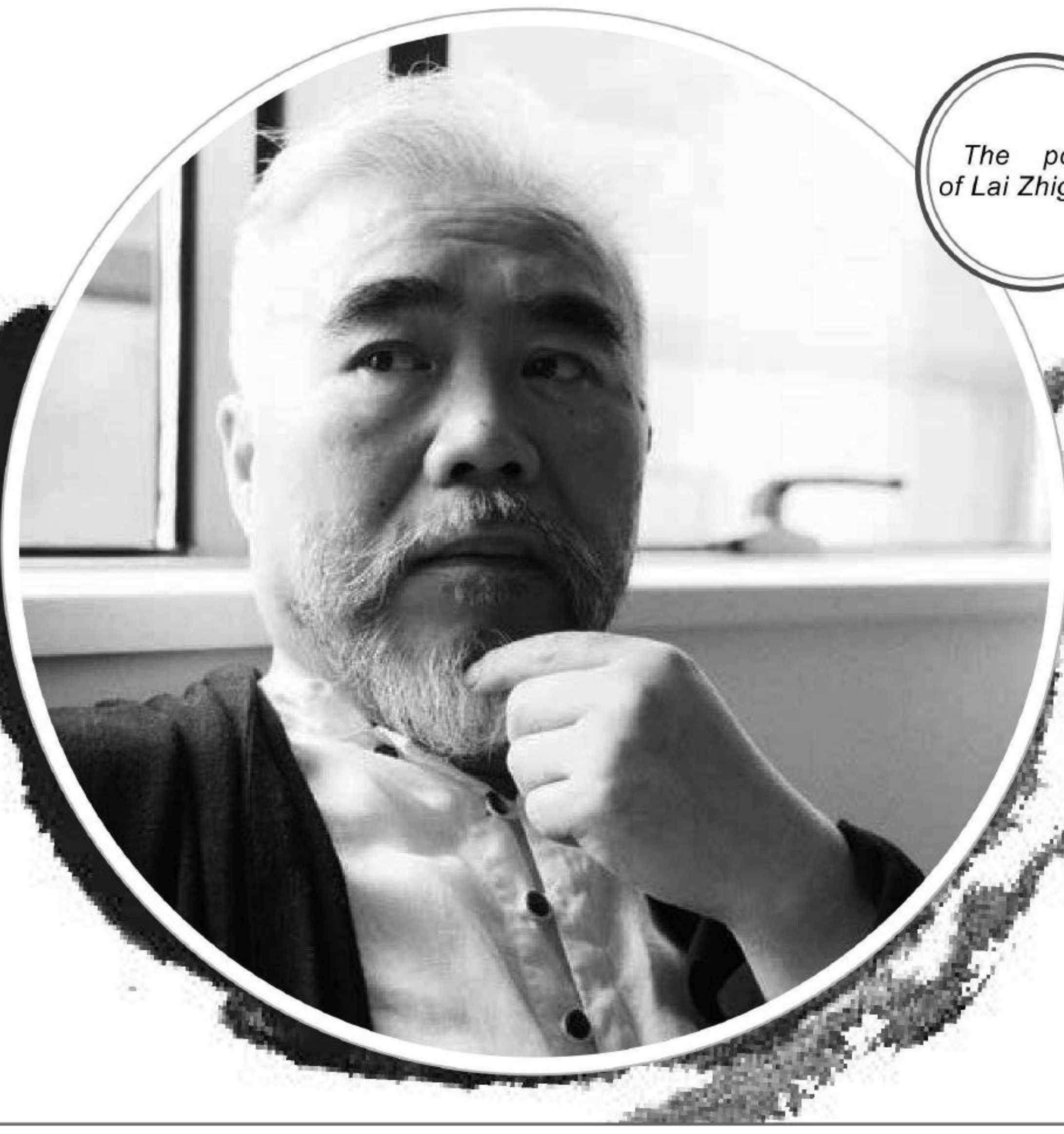
The protagonists of this video, which was captured on the "iPanda" multimedia platform, were born last year.

The "iPanda" channel, which provides round-the-clock live broadcasts of the daily life and activities of pandas in the nature reserves of southwest China, is jointly operated by China Network Television and Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding.

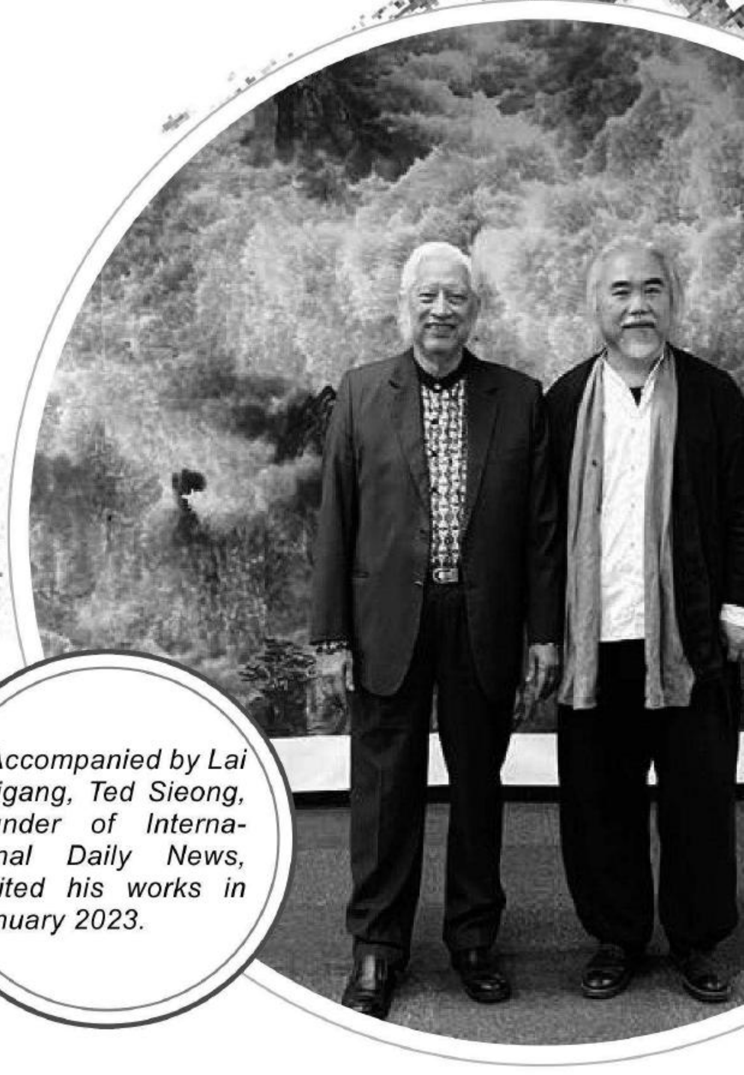
The Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding is a world-renowned institution for the ex-situ conservation of giant pandas, scientific research and breeding, public education, and tourism. The base is famous for its work in protecting and breeding giant pandas, red pandas, and other endangered wild animals exclusive to China.

“The superlative Ch

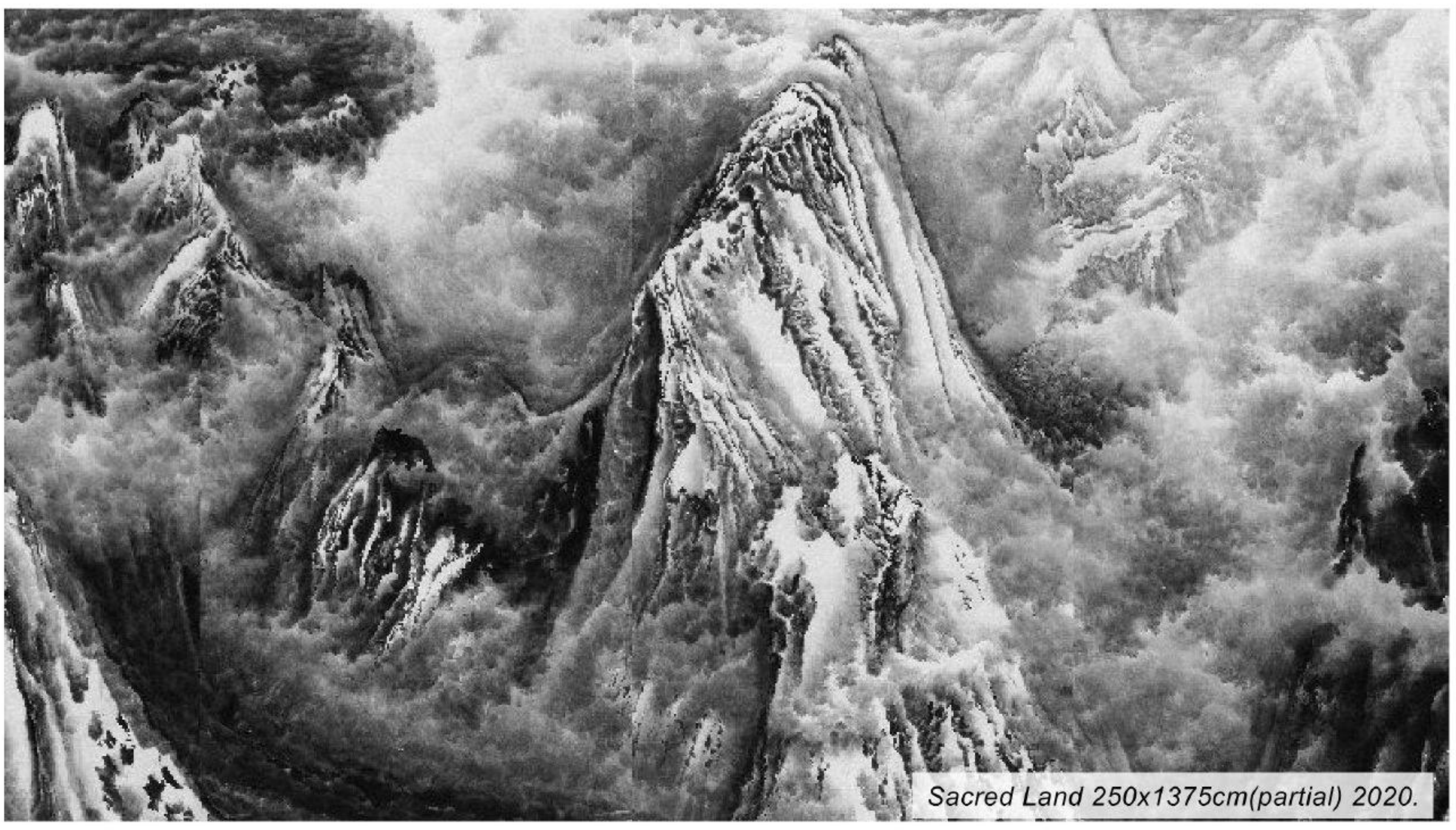
--Written at the eve of Lai Zhigang



The portrait of Lai Zhigang.



Accompanied by Lai Zhigang, Ted Sieong, founder of International Daily News, visited his works in January 2023.



Sacred Land 250x1375cm(partial) 2020.

“The brimming waves delight the eye on sunny days, the dimming hills give a rare view in rainy haze.” The spring in Hangzhou epitomizes the most beautiful region south of the Yangtze River. The ink landscape paintings of Lai Zhigang choose to rival the real scenery in Hangzhou.

Over the recent years, Lai Zhigang has been a high-profile name in the circle of Chinese painting. A dozen of authoritative persons, who have commented favorably on him or spoken highly of him, think that he has pushed the traditional Chinese ink and wash to a new height.

Xiao Feng, former dean of the China Academy of Art, thinks that “his landscape paintings stands out as one of the notable landmarks”; Lu Yushun, dean of the China National Academy of Painting, says that he is “an innovative and creative artist”.

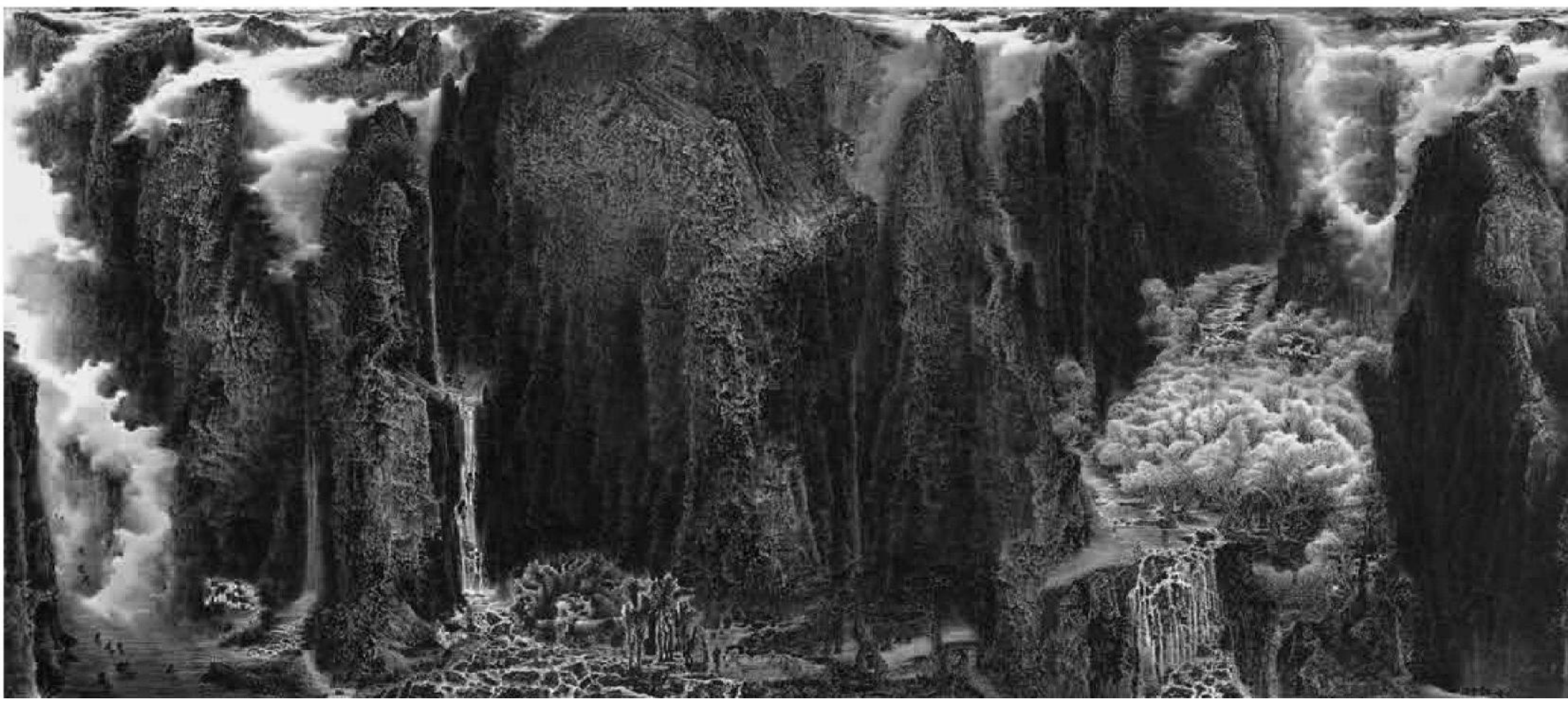
Chen Chuanxi, a famous critic, thinks that his works are “grand and magnificent enough to beat all their peers, and forceful and unrestrained enough to rival the contemporary and historic works”; Wang Dingqian, a veteran collector in Taiwan, says that “Zhang Daqian is unrivalled in ink splashing while Lai Zhigang dominates ink accumulation”.

Chinese paintings, known as art works with traditional Chinese visual aesthetic effects, are essentially characterized by inheritance and innovation. Zou Peizhu, the hostess of Motiange (Li Keran’s wife) before her death inscribed the words “inheritance and exploration” for a painting exhibition of Lai Zhigang. On the basis of inheriting and guarding traditional ink techniques, Lai Zhigang has modernized Chinese ink landscape paintings. Ink accumulation constitutes the core of his artistic achievements.

Gong Xian, Huang Binhong and Li Keran have created point-oriented ink accumulation, linear ink accumulation and large-area inking respectively. Lai Zhigang has integrated the above three skills into one whole and “epitomized the achievements over the past three hundred years” (a quotation from Chen Chuanxi). Li Keran “accumulates ink to create jade” while Lai Zhigang “accumulates water to create jade”. He uses colorless water to neutralize colored ink and enrich Chinese ink and wash. Ink is distilled in water and yields the sense of wonder. Therefore, it can be said that water accumulation can result in the sense of wonder as the highest excellence is like water.

Ink accumulation is a skill and a term in Chinese landscape paintings. As it is a very difficult painting skill, painters mostly are reluctant to study it. When he was a student in the Central Academy of Fine arts, he respectfully declined the suggestion of his teachers and painting companions to “make a detour”, but he has persevered and never stopped pursuing the skill. Finally, he has made his mark at the first shot. Art connoisseurs think that his works merit learning and appreciation.

The souls of Chinese calligraphy and painting originate from traditional Chinese culture. Lai Zhigang, who has profound knowledge of traditional Chinese culture, pursues the highest aesthetic ideas with untiring vigour. In his opinion, water precedes ink in Chinese ink-wash paintings. Water is the “non-being” whole ink is the “being”. As written in Tao Teh King, the things of this world come from Being, and Being comes from Non-being. Therefore, being is created out of non-being. Lai Zhigang follows the spiritual core of the Taoist philosophy and expresses the myriads of changes in the universe in his ink-wash paintings.



inese ink and wash”

Hangzhou Ink–Wash Art Exhibition

傳承與開拓
来支钢水墨艺术展
INHERITANCE AND DEVELOPMENT · EXHIBITION OF LAI ZHIGANG'S INK ART

A group photo in the Lai Zhigang Ink-Wash Art Exhibition in China National Academy of Painting in April 2022.

The unique artistic aesthetic system of Lai Zhigang's paintings is epitomized by knowing the white and keeping the black, and using the black to create the white. And embodies the law that the alternation of Yin and Yang constitutes the way. The black can be as black as a crow in night and the white can be as white as an egret amid snow. The black and white world is boundless in artistic conception and charm. The works of Lai Zhigang accord with his painting thoughts that “the simplest world is constituted by Yin and Yang, the black and the white is embodied in ink and wash”, “the way underpins ink, ink is used to realize the way” and “the way originates from ink and wash.”

Lai Zhigang devotes to seeking the truth from facts in the pursuit of self-cultivation, enlightenment and success. He either focuses on creation in his studio or paints from nature. He travels far and wide, including obscure villages, famous mountains and great waters to draw the essence of nature. By grasping the natural law, namely “change”, he copes with all shifting events in painting by sticking to the fundamental principle. As all things are integrated, the universe is just “a stroke of painting” in the spiritual world of Lai Zhigang.

Clouds, water and mountains are all ceaselessly changing, but the central theme remains the same. As said by Song Bing, a painter in the Southern Dynasties, sages illuminate objects by embracing Dao (the way), and virtuous people clear the mind to savor the image. Being broad-minded, Lai Zhigang has depended on profound oriental culture to find the way to great beauty that is infinite in space, volume and energy. Moral achievements are superior to artistic achievements. With commensurate skills, Lai Zhigang employs ink and wash without starting and ending marks and creates works featuring great harmony and unity.

Lai Zhigang, whose gift in painting is bestowed by nature, always follows the natural courses and creates works at his own will without making any draft. As creation involves risks, wonderful views often emerge under his brush, as illustrated by the Chinese sayings that the path winds through high peaks and one suddenly finds a village shaded in soft willows and bright flowers. All things in the universe can be painted, which results from abiding by Dao and sparing no efforts to follow the fundamental principle of eternal changes. With limited wisdom, mankind has to draw support from Dao and integrate with Dao to perceive the ideas that cannot be painted and lead to broader imagination. He often says, “the half of my gains is from hard work, the other is bestowed by nature.”

As said by Jing Hao, an ancient Chinese painter, only by leaving aside all painting skills can lifelike scenery be depicted. These whose spirits and characters stay pure are already immersed in Dao without their own knowledge. The greatest truths are the simplest and become increasingly complicated through evolvement. Like the Creator, Lai Zhigang always copes with complicated things in a simple manner. In a nutshell, he conveys Dao with ink and harness ink with Dao.

To cultivate vital energy by painting, Lai Zhigang continues to break through himself, and works unremittingly to comprehend natural laws, identify with the theory that man is an integral part of nature, make himself act like nature that is selfless, desires for nothing and has no ego and preserve his vitality and spirit to the best of his capability. Kindness is beauty and still waters run deep. According to the doctrine of Zhuang Zhou that empty room makes white, creators have to stay pure and innocent to seek the origin of art and push art to the limit. Only with no ego, a person can overcome worldly thoughts and enter sainthood.

Wang Luxiang, a cultural scholar, disclosed in the Lai Zhigang Beijing exhibition that Li Keran told Li Baolin, a painter, a few days before his death that he would seek abrupt and dramatic changes. How Li Keran will pursue self-improvement remains a mystery. Wang Luxiang believes that the works of Lai Zhigang could probably fulfill the last wish of Li Keran.

Wang Mian, a poet in Yuan Dynasty, once wrote, “Not angling for compliments, I'd be content to let my integrity fill the universe.” Chinese painting shapes the confidence of the Chinese nation in art and is one of the most important cultural relics in oriental civilization. National confidence and pride arise spontaneously in appreciating the works of Lai Zhigang.

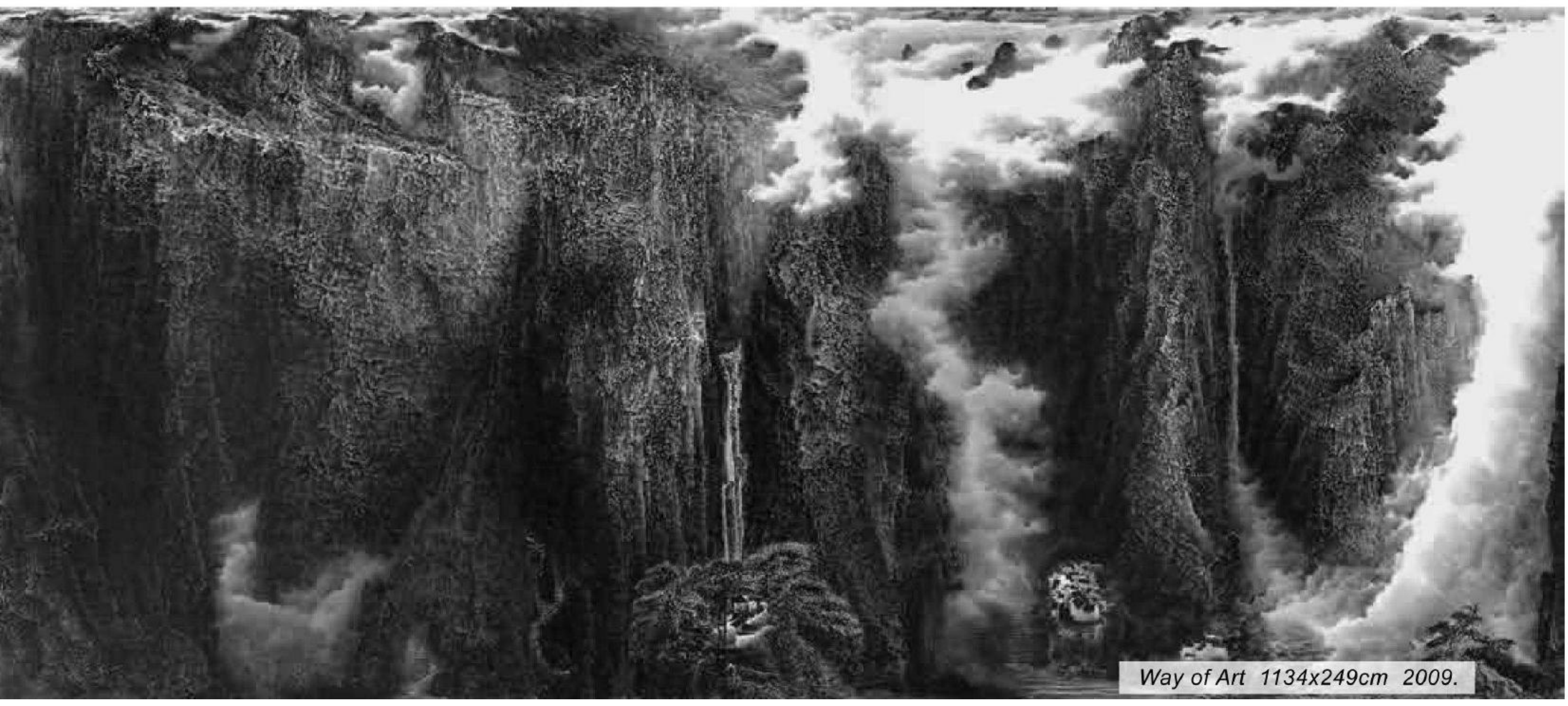
Only things of a national touch can prevail in the world. Lai Zhigang, who emerges in response to the new era, is bound to write new chapters in the global palace of art.

Lai Zhigang will display his works again in Hangzhou following many exhibitions held abroad and across the straits. His works, which be said to be the “superlative Chinese ink and wash”, and the West Lake add radiance and beauty to each other. Visitors can gain the best aesthetic enjoyment as both spring rain and ink are fascinating.

傳承與開拓
来支钢水墨艺术展学术研讨会
Symposium for "Inheritance and Development - Exhibition of Lai Zhigang's Ink Art"

Symposium on Lai Zhigang Ink-Wash Paintings Exhibition in April 2022.

The Group Photo in the Lai Zhigang Ink-Wash Art Exhibition in Guangdong Museum of Art in June 2022.



Way of Art 1134x249cm 2009.

Shanghai speeds up testing and commecial use of driverless cars

A large number of Tesla electric vehicles are parked at the Nangang Port in Shanghai. — IC

Zhu Shenshen

Shanghai is speeding up testing and commercial use of autonomous driving, including allowing more driverless cars on the road, and continually offering free licenses for electric cars, head of the city's economy and information technology commission said this month.

During a City Life program broadcast online, Wu Jincheng, director of the Shanghai Commission of Economy and Informatization, also spoke about Shanghai's adoption for AI tech like ChatGPT-like services, while building more metaverse applications in the virtual world.

Shanghai is a national highland for autonomous driving, based on the number of intelligent networked vehicle testing enterprises; the number of licenses issued, open road mileage and road testing mileage. The test mileage exceeds 13.27 million kilometers and the manned demonstration application has completed a total of 180,000 times.

"Everyone can experience the convenience brought by driverless vehicles as early as possible (in Shanghai)," Wu said.

For the next stage, Shanghai will start a larger scale of demonstration operation of intelligent network-connected vehicles, explore the commercial landing path, and create a closed-loop application ecology.

On March 22, Shanghai approved eight firms to test autonomous driving, mainly in the Pudong New Area. The driverless cars will also be tested on highways, with reliable networks with 5G, wireless private network and other frontier technologies.

Meanwhile, Shanghai will continue offering free licenses for electric vehicles, at least until the end of this year, Wu added. But he admitted that the new EV cars bring traffic pressures in Shanghai, and the city will find a new "balance" in the future.

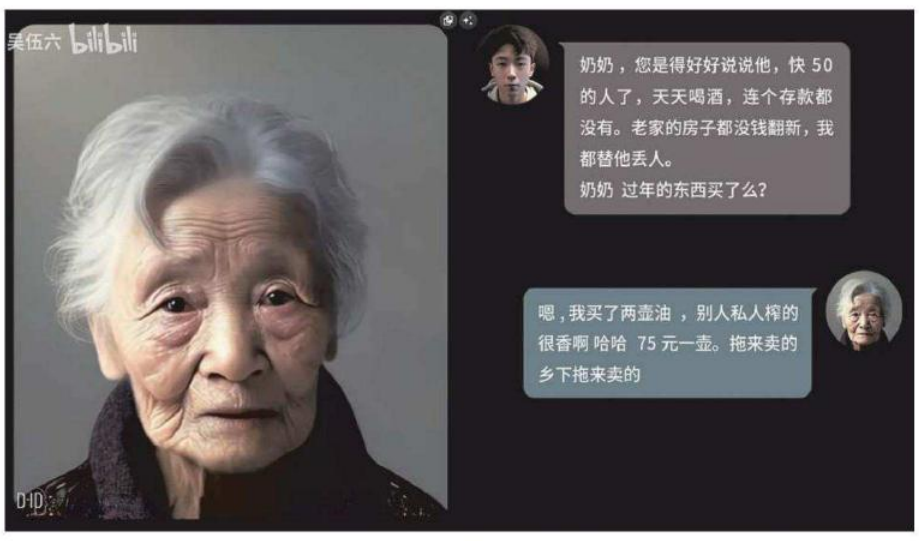
Artificial intelligence brings wide application for Shanghai, Wu added.

He mentioned the integration of AI and digital avatar on social media; AI-assisted chatbots for customized services tailored learning programs for students and AI diagnosis to improve medical service efficiency.

New generative AI services also improves content production efficiency, like a film poster created within 15 seconds and creation of several dozen gaming design posters within several seconds.

Grandma is dead but still talking to us

Lu Feiran



奶奶，您是得好好说说他，快 50 的人了，天天喝酒，连个存款都没有。老家的房子都没钱翻新，我都替他丢人。
奶奶 过年的东西买了么?

嗯，我买了两壶油 ，别人私人榨的很香啊 哈哈 75 元一壶。拖来卖的乡下拖来卖的

Bilibili uploader "Wuwuliu" created a digital "twin" of his late grandmother through the help of several AI applications.

WUWULIU'S grandmother died in January. Instead of honoring her in the traditional homage to ancestors during the recent Qingming Festival, he brought his beloved nana back to life.

Well, in a manner of speaking.

Wuwuliu, the screen name of an uploader on the video platform Bilibili, used artificial intelligence applications to create a digital version of his late grandmother.

She is a movable icon that can show simple expressions, such as blinking and opening her mouth. She can talk to people in her original voice and discuss mundane daily things: "I bought two bottles of fresh-pressed cooking oil, and it smelled great," the icon says. "I'm going to tell your father to drink less and stop gambling."

The reaction of netizens was mixed. Some found Wuwuliu's experiment heartwarming; others thought it creepy.

In a video, Wuwuliu explained how he created the digital figure. He said he fed several photos of his grandmother into the AI picture generator Midjourney. Then he downloaded his grandmother's verbal messages and used a synthesizer to simulate her voice and accent. And finally, he turned to the AI language bot ChatGPT to try to create conversations his grandmother might have.

> "
> The standard of ethics changes all the time, usually with the development of technologies. And one day if 'digital mortality' prevails, it might not be regarded as unethical anymore.
>
> **Gu Jun**
> Sociologist

After all that was done, he uploaded everything to the website D-ID, which allows users to use real-time face animation and advanced text-to-speech to create an immersive and human-like conversational AI experience.

The technology of "bringing back" decedents was created overseas and has existed for a while, even incorporated into commercial use.

Known as "digital immortality," it is a technology that uses artificial intelligence and machine-learning algorithms to simulate the personality, behavior and characteristics of a dead person. Wuwuliu generated a two-minute conversation with his digital grandmother on the website.

"The two-minute conversation didn't make me feel any better, actually," he said in his explanatory video. "She brought me up as a child, and we had very close relationship."

Wuwuliu said his grandmother was basically unconscious in her last days, so he was unable to talk to her before she died. AI technology somehow soothed his regrets.

Many people have regrets when a loved one passes away, but is bringing them back to life digitally the way to atone?

A netizen with the screen name "Ruoyiliuxing" commented on Wuwuliu's video:

"I can feel much the same as you. I lost my grandpa two years ago, and I couldn't get over his loss for half a year. I would like to create such a digital figure, but he didn't leave many photos or voice recordings."

Other online comments were more skeptical.

"If you truly understand the meaning of life, you would find such replicas meaningless," commended a netizen who goes by the screen name "Elephant at the City Wall."

Tian Shishi, who lost her father to cancer several years ago, said that she would feel uncomfortable making a digital replica of her father.

"The re-creation can never replace the person lost," she said. "A digital substitute cheapens the memories of cherished loved ones. I certainly wouldn't want to give pictures and other data of my father to a stranger to create a replica. What if they use the data on something else?"

Last year, at the funeral of Wu Mengchao, a medical expert in diseases of the liver, bile ducts and gallbladder, his digital twin asked questions of pupils attending the ceremony: "Have you any new findings on our subject?" "How is our new hospital in Anting doing? Is our third hospital busy?"

Many of his students shed tears upon hearing his familiar voice.

"Digital immortality" technology includes applications such as Replika and Soul Machines.

Replika, created in a Silicon Valley-based Russian company, is a personal chatbot that uses AI to simulate conversation with a deceased loved one. It was initially designed as a therapeutic tool for people coping with grief or loneliness.

Soul Machines, developed in New Zealand, features hyper-realistic virtual avatars that can serve as digital assistants or companions.

Ethical questions swirl around "digital immortality." Is it right to develop a digital resurrection without the consent of the deceased? Do descendants inherit the rights to personal data such as voices, accents and messages?

Beyond that, some fear the technology may lead people to become emotionally dependent on digital replicas, potentially hindering their ability to cope with the grief and loss associated with death.

Gu Jun, a sociologist who has long been studying artificial intelligence, told Shanghai Daily that if "digital immortality" becomes very developed and popular, problems could arise that aren't covered by present laws and regulations.

Citing one example, he said, "How do we deal with disputes that may be triggered by such digital figures?"

On a broader front, Gu said he believes that the ethics we value today may not suit the circumstances of the future.

"What modern people do today was prohibited 500 years ago," he said. "The standard of ethics changes all the time, usually with the development of technologies. And one day if 'digital mortality' prevails, it might not be regarded as unethical anymore."

Meanwhile, some psychologists said they view "digital mortality" as a double-edged sword. Every individual is a complex being of love, hate, tenderness, anger, stubbornness, rationality and anxiety. Should all traits be re-created in a digital resurrection, or just the traits we want to remember?

"If there was family discord when a person was alive, will that all be revived if a digital version is created?" psychological therapist Xu Peng asked Shanghai Daily. "It could bring back pain and anger as well as comfort and love."

However, Xu said he believes that "digital immortality" can exert more positive than negative effects in helping mend the empty hole in the heart caused by the death of loved ones.

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Beijing's suburban railway Line S2 offers breathtaking views near the Great Wall. — IC

From Hexie to Fuxing: Discover China's fast and futuristic trains

Zhu Qing

China's railway network is the largest in the world and has expanded to 155,000 kilometers by the end of last year, with high-speed rail accounting for 42,000 kilometers, making it one of the safest and fastest ways for travelers to explore the country.

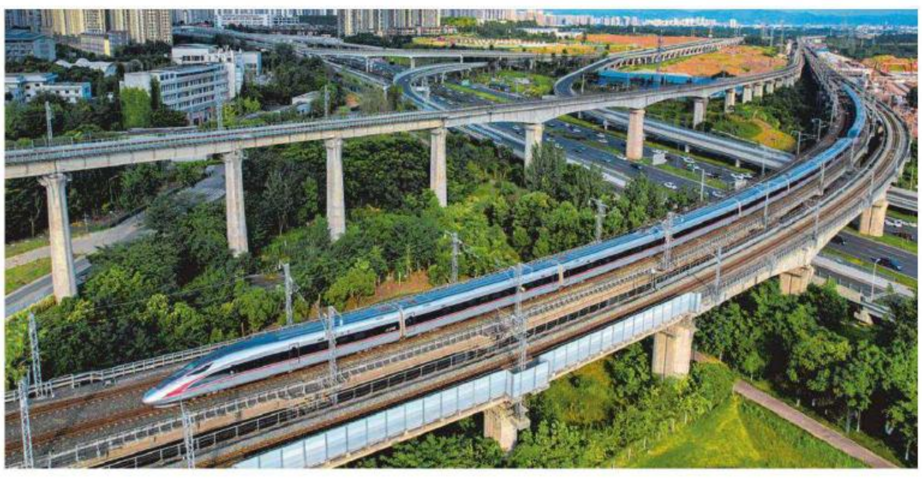
People looking for a convenient and comfortable way to explore China can choose from different types of trains, including high-speed trains (G, D, C trains), conventional trains (Z, T, K trains), suburban trains (S trains) and tourist trains.

High-speed trains are the most efficient way to travel long distances, while conventional trains are a more affordable option for travel between cities and towns.

Suburban trains are ideal for getting around within urban areas or between nearby cities, while tourist trains offer a unique way to see the country and experience Chinese culture.

Two of the top high-speed trains in China are the Fuxing (literally rejuvenation) and Hexie (literally harmony) trains. These sleek trains offer cutting-edge technology and unmatched comfort, making them the perfect choice for both short and long-distance travel.

So, which one is better, the Fuxing or the Hexie?



Fuxing trains 复兴号

While both are popular choices, the Fuxing stands out with its sleek design, energy-efficient drive and spacious seating.

As a train developed entirely in China, the Fuxing can reach speeds of up to 400 kilometers per hour, whisking you past stunning landscapes and towering skyscrapers in no time.

But that's not all. The Fuxing also has an intelligent version with even more advanced features, including enhanced passenger services, improved train operations and better safety monitoring.

Not only is the Fuxing packed with cutting-edge technology, but it's also designed with passenger comfort in mind. Enjoy free Wi-Fi, multiple charging ports and plenty of space to stretch out during your journey.

Accessible to 18 provincial-level regions across China, including the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, Yangtze River Delta, Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area and Chengdu-Chongqing economic circle, the Fuxing is a convenient choice for many travelers.

If you're planning to ride the Fuxing, be sure to check for the "intelligent EMU" label when purchasing your ticket on the 12306 railway app.

Hexie trains 和谐号

While the Fuxing has garnered much attention with its sleek design and intelligent features, the Hexie deserves recognition, too.

Developed through the modification of a foreign high-speed train introduced in 2004, Hexie means "harmony" in English, reflecting the Chinese government's goal of creating a harmonious society.

The Hexie's speed ranges from 160 to 350kph, making it a dependable option for both locals and tourists. While it may not have as many charging ports or Wi-Fi access as the Fuxing, the Hexie compensates with advanced safety measures for a smooth and secure ride.

Whether you're traveling for work or leisure, give the Hexie a chance to impress you with its reliability and cultural significance.

MTR Vibrant Express 动感号

Travelers from Shenzhen who are looking for a unique and vibrant travel experience to Hong Kong can also choose to ride on the MTR Vibrant Express.

Launched in 2012, this high-speed train model boasts a unique and striking design, complete with vivid colors and dynamic patterns that create an energetic and youthful atmosphere for passengers.

Whether you choose the Fuxing, the Hexie, or any other trains in China, you can be sure that traveling by rail is a quality choice.

Come and explore China by train! The adventure awaits!

Love is a many-splintered thing in the Chinese language

Wan Lixin

A FRIEND from Singapore observed that when her English name Eve became easily confused with the Chinese for *yifu* (clothes), she asked to be addressed as Wang Taitai (Mrs Wang) instead.

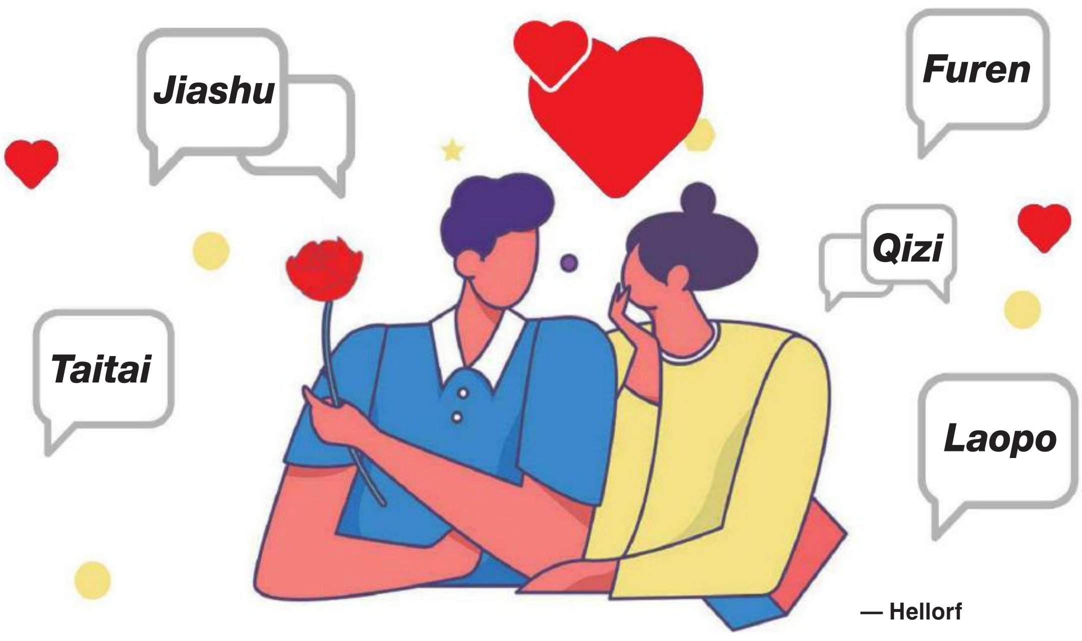
Then she was reminded that addressing her as Wang Taitai could give others the impression that she is pompous and aloof, "like an old-moneyed woman sitting on a mighty throne."

When I reflected on her predicament, I thought how Chinese mainlanders do seem to lack proper forms of address for spouses or even sweethearts

Taitai (wife) also implies a wealthy woman who doesn't work, and other titles carry subtleties: *laopo* is familiar but slightly disrespectable; *qizi* is too formal. The term *furen* is also a bit pompous.

The standard address for my parents' generation was *jiashu* (family member), which could refer to husband, to wife or to children. It still appears to be the most acceptable of all alternatives and is my own favorite.

The Chinese have a complicated etymological history with what to call loving relationships.



— Hellorf

One term much in vogue for my parents' generation and still sometime heard today is *airen*. It is sometimes misleadingly translated into "lover." To my mind, this term is slightly evocative of the stirring years of Chinese revolution, when dedicated underground couples would often address each other that way.

As a matter of fact, *airen* as a form of address is a Western import, probably from Sweetheart Abbey (according to one investigation), founded in 1273 by Lady Dervorguilla of Galloway to honor her late husband John Balliol's memory — at least this is what I came across online when I tried to trace the origin of *airen*.

In Chinese, *airen* in the "sweetheart" context is strictly confined to the legally married, whereas in English, it can simply be a term of endearment or a reference to someone who is loved or loveable.

In Chinese, the term *duixiang* refers to a "boyfriend" or "girlfriend" in a steady relationship, serious enough to be headed for marriage. But the term is neutral and utterly devoid of any romantic association, which may reflect the fact that most Chinese are very undemonstrative when it comes to love.

Chinese television programs and movies often show passionate lovers or couples exclaiming "I love you!" But that may be appropriated from Western manners. I have never seen that happen in real life.

In fact, the character *ai* (love) itself, when used in term of romantic relationship, is a fairly late development in Chinese etymology.

According to the interpretation in "Shuowen Jiezi," the first Chinese dictionary, the word ai originally meant "an act of benefiting others." In the first chapter of Confucius' "Analects," the word *airen* has been translated as "love for men."

According to the translation by James Legge, it reads: "To rule a country of a thousand chariots, there must be reverent attention to business, and sincerity; economy in expenditures, and love for men …"

The husband-wife relationship is deemed the most fundamental of the five types of human interactions, which include ruler and subject, father and son, brothers and friends. However, the husband-wife relationship has always been placed in an intricate network of other relations. Thus, when a husband introduces his wife to others, he often says something that translates roughly as "this is your aunt."

And this "aunt," depending on the specific web of relations, can refer to any number of familial relations.

No wonder kinship terms so often befuddle English translators.

Growing number of tourists flock to China's countryside to see blooming flowers

Flowers have come to full bloom across China, blanketing vast landscapes and attracting numerous tourists who are relishing the awe-inspiring scenery.

Peach blossoms are in full bloom near the Jiayang Lake in Yaiyuan City, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, with clusters of pink and white petals filling branches and lake water adding radiance and beauty, presenting a picturesque scenery.

Along the winding footpath, tourists are busy taking photos and enjoying the poetic beauty of peach blossoms when bathing in the gentle breeze of warm spring.

"I saw that all the peach blossoms here are in bloom in my WeChat moments. If there are flowers, it means that spring is coming. I'm very happy," said Yan Liming, one of the visitors.

Local authorities in Wuhan City of central China's Hebei Province rolled out three cherry blossom-themed tour routes for 2023, covering a string of hot destinations such as the Donghu Moshan Cherry Blossom Park, Wuhan University and Yellow Crane Tower, as the city braces for the full-blossom period of cherries.

Up to 300,000 consumption coupons were issued to facilitate the development of local tourism and tourists can make free reservations to visit popular scenic spots within three days after receiving coupons.

More than 2,000 hectares of pear flowers in Renshou County of Meishan City, southwest China's Sichuan Province, have entered their full blossom period, attracting crowds of tourists to soak in the gorgeous scenery.

In Caojia Town, throngs of tourists and photography enthusiasts gathered in a pear orchard to have an outing in spring.

Swaying rapeseed flowers are blooming to paint a golden picture of fascinating vista in Yuejin Village of Jiangyi Town in Jiujiang City, east China's Jiangxi Province.

Visitors here can taste rural food, appreciate handicrafts, and buy agricultural products, enjoying the one-stop rural tourism.

Moreover, the local government issued 30,000 coupons for visitors to stimulate consumption and drive the development of cultural tourism.

Multiple provinces across China are handling tourist-dedicated trains, as taking the train in the warmth of spring to enjoy the flowers has become a top choice for many tourists.

In Heilongjiang Province of northeast China, the first special train of this year, departing from capital city of Harbin, carried 580 tourists to embark on a 17-day journey to provinces like Yunnan and Guizhou.

In Gansu Province of northwest China, more than 700 passengers took a special train leaving form Lanzhou City and traveled to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to start a spring outing.

Large swathes of blooming rapeseed flowers are exquisitely decorating an ancient village called Changqi in Xinjian Town of Fenggang County in southwest China's Guizhou Province, embellishing hues of golden yellow on the vast farmland against the backdrop of the spring-breezed idyllic scenery.

A range of tourism and cultural activities were held to enrich the three high-quality rural tour routes built by local authorities, in efforts to boost agricultural tourism.

"Since March, we've handled nearly 100,000 tourist trips. People also raise bees by relying on rapeseed flowers. The per capita income of residents in Changqi Ancient Village has exceeded 17,000 yuan (about 2,467.34 U.S. dollars) last year," said Chen Sulan, head of tourism sector in Xinjian Town.

Breathtaking sea of clouds appears on mountain top in central China

A stunning sea of clouds recently emerged over the Funiu Mountain in Luoyang City, central China's Henan province, creating a picturesque wonderland.

The peaks of the mountain are covered in snow, and the trees are coated with a layer of white.

The clouds roll and rise over the peaks, revealing the mountain ranges below, forming a unique Chinese ink wash painting.

Art exhibition shows new development in Chinese painting

The Fifth National Chinese Painting Exhibition, which kicked off on March 18 in central China's city of Zhengzhou, showcased the latest trends and modern day artists' creativity on the traditional art to tens of thousands of visitors.

For the once every five year exhibition, a total of 340 pieces of art are on display at the Zhengzhou Art Museum, including 190 works selected from over 4,000 public submissions nationwide and 150 pieces created by 100 master artists from across the country.

"This exhibition reflected the latest development and exploration of Chinese painting. It provides a boost to both the innovative development of Chinese painting and the progress of China's modern painting," said Ma Fenghui, vice chairman of China Artists Association.

The grand exhibition attracted over 10,000 art lovers on the opening day alone, setting a new single-day record for the Zhengzhou Art Museum.

The exhibition opened until April 15, with free entry for the public.

China's performing arts flourishing once again

China's performing arts have been flourishing as enthusiasts began to pack theaters after the country gradually eased its COVID-19 restrictions.

With COVID-19 becoming much less pathogenic, China announced 10 new measures last December to ease COVID-19 restrictions. On Jan. 8, its management of COVID-19 was officially downgraded from Class A to Class B, meaning that there will be no limitations on the numbers of viewers in theaters.

After that, the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), one of the top theaters in Beijing, began to see full house after three years of the pandemic.

Dubbed as "the giant egg," the center contains four major performance venues, namely the Opera House, the Theatre, the Concert Hall, and the Mini Theatre.

Artists working at the center are excited to see the return of viewers. Music Director of the China NCPA Orchestra Lyu Jia said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, artists had to change the way they relate to the audience and the way they perform, and now they are able to see a full house.

"The art, the music can't be stopped. The 2023, this year, from January, we have already 100 percent audience in the hall, that's for us a great moment because we used to be full-housed. This was charisma between stage and audience. The 2020 to now is about three years period. But we develop lots online [performances]. It was difficult, but [that's] from negative sides, and [it] become a positive side, because we have more plenty of time doing a lot of recording or orchestrating. The music I think, there is a spiritual value. Music has become a bridge, [connecting] reality to your dream," said Lyu.

Ren Xiaolong, managing director of the China NCPA Orchestra, said the eased COVID-19 restrictions also mean that the cultural exchanges between China and other countries will resume.

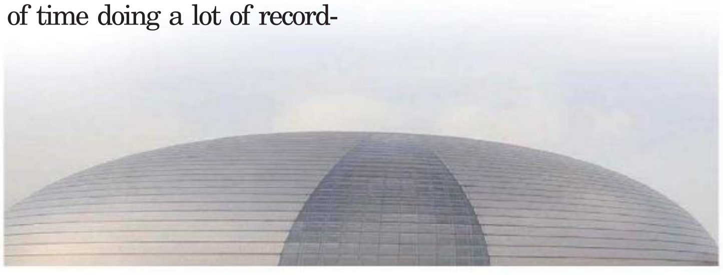
On March 12, world renowned cellist Jan Vogler performed at the NCPA, which marked a significant symbol of foreign artists returning to China following the pandemic.

"For musicians and orchestras, traveling and touring and sharing music with people from different places are always part of their lives. It is so great that we able to travel and tour again, that international artistes will be returning. Everything will get back to normal and people should be confident to see full scale of business as usual," said Ren.

As people's life gradually returned to normal, the venues were once again fully packed, and theatergoers were buying tickets well in advance to catch a performance at the NCPA.

Shi Yihong, a Peking Opera artist, said seeing visitor numbers picking up and tickets getting sold out quickly was encouraging for artists.

"We still had performances during the past three years, even the audience capacity was limited to 50 percent. Performers and audience were still making connections. Now being able to see a full house again, it's definitely joyful and encouraging for the artists," said Shi.



Kite stunts wow tourists at international game in Sichuan

Various kite stunts wowed tourists at an international game in Chongzhou County of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The game, named the 2023 International Kite Invitational Competition, and also the fourth National Traditional Kite Championship, was held at this weekend.

Over 200 kite flyers from China and seven other countries like the United States, Germany and Pakistan, took part in the game.

During the game, huge kites of different shapes like dragon and ray fish were flying in the sky.

"Today I bring a dynamic kite here. I applied something like gears and pinwheels so as to make some parts of the kite able to move. Like the woodpeckers, they can move when the kite is flying in the sky," said Li Tao, a kite maker and inheritor of intangible cultural heritage from northwest China's Shaanxi Province.

"I come from Qinghai Province, and I see such a great kite festival today for the first time. I think it's very good and many kites like those huge dragon-shaped ones are very exquisite. I feel very happy," said Zhang Yuze, a kite flyer.

The event, hosted by the China Kite Association, includes mainstream competitions among 11 kinds of kites.

Besides competitions among kite flyers from home and abroad, the event also aims to provide a visual feast for tourists in spring.

"I'm happy. I like traditional Chinese kites from the bottom of my heart," said Hans Peter Boehme, vice president of the International Kite Federation.

"We came here after we heard there's a great kite festival here. My granddaughter wanted to watch big kites. She was very happy on the way here. She's happy to see the kites," said Hu Yanqiu, a tourist.

Toy companies in Shantou manufacturing hub play with new ideas to expand market reach

Businesses in the southern Chinese city of Shantou, regarded as one of the world's major toy manufacturing hubs, have been toying with the idea of branching out into other creative industries, cooperating with famous IPs and exploring smart manufacturing to keep up with the ever-changing market demand.

Shantou played host to the 22nd International Toys and Gifts Fair, which closed on Monday, after showcasing a staggering 180,000 toys and related products from over 550 brands.

At the event, some 10,000 buyers and global e-commerce platforms are estimated to have ordered 1.4 billion dollars of products from local toy makers.

The fair may be over but the work doesn't stop in the city's Chenghai District, where more than 40,000 companies up and down the toy industry chain are busy delivering products to clients from 120 countries and regions.

While toy manufacturing is the big business, these toy firms have been looking to build on the popularity of their products, including the locally headquartered Alpha Group. The success of their games and cartoon stories over the years have triggered huge cravings for spin-off products among children.

"We held a national toy car racing competition with the sports authorities in the late 1990s. We have original cartoon series, including the Pleasant Goat and Big Big Wolf. Our Super Wings series - which is about a robotic aircraft - has been very popular in recent years. So we put in more investment and produced animated films out of it," said Yang Yusheng, general manager of the Alpha Group.

These moves into other realms are all driven by intellectual property rights, Yang said.

At present, Shantou is home to over 50,000 toy production and operation companies, covering the entire industrial chain of raw material supply, design, IP creation, manufacturing and trade.

IP has also become a growing buzzword word at the International Toys and Gifts Fair held. This year, the attending companies found out that consumers are looking for something beyond just fun and cuteness.

"We are a local agency that helps toy factories get authorization from IP owners. In the past, we would go to cartoon, gaming or movie production companies. But now we are also talking to Chinese museums and cultural institutions," said Terry Huang, IP licensing and operation director of Joy Media.

Last year, Joy Media helped launch several building block assembly sets of famous Chinese landmarks like the Great Wall - all designed and manufactured by companies in the Chenghai district. Some even believe these toys carry valuable educational and cultural value.

"As the economy grows, Chinese people are increasingly confident about their culture. Consumers love items embedded with history. The parents also want children to learn more about our roots while playing. We authorized the Great Wall IPs to companies here, because they have the ability to manifest our culture in toys," said Li Weinan, deputy director of cultural and tourism, The Great Wall Society of China.

Besides traditional culture, items showcasing China's domestic sci-fi movie sets, modern infrastructures and technology achievements also drew attention at the toy show. And when it comes to high-tech solutions, toy makers in Chenghai have been exploiting the advances made by local machinery companies to keep up with the ever-changing market demands.

"We provide injection molding machines and smart manufacturing solutions to other toy factories. The molding machines produce small pieces of a block set. We have acquired two patents through the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). We supply all the leading toy companies in Chenghai, and many factories in Southeast Asia, Russia, Mexico and Africa," said Huang Xuwei, president of Guangdong Weida Intelligent Equipment.

Chenghai now represents roughly one-third of the entire global toy manufacturing capacity. According to the local government, toy exports for the first two months totaled two billion yuan, up 43 percent from a year ago.

Chinese researchers succeed in wild breeding experiment of Yangtze sturgeon

Chinese scientists have succeeded in breeding in the wild the Yangtze sturgeon, which had been declared extinct in the wild by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

It is the first time in 23 years to erase doubts over the endangered species' ability to reproduce naturally.

Last year, the IUCN moved its classification of the Yangtze sturgeon from "critically endangered" to "extinct in the wild."

According to the agency's assessment, the wild Yangtze sturgeon was a casualty of overfishing in the 1970s, as well as water pollution. But not all hope is lost.

Last month, researchers placed 20 mature males and females into the Jiang'an section of the Yangtze in Yibin, southwest China's Sichuan Province. The fish lived in experimental cages of 45 cubic meters. Two days later, the researchers discovered that natural spawning had taken place. And in the following days, fertilized sturgeon eggs hatched.

"It's the first time we did this experiment in the wild based on many inside ones we've done since 2016. We selected this place as it's a part of the Yangtze River, and its hydrological condition like temperature is good. We selected 10 male and 10 female mature sturgeons to put them in the net cages in the river and kept monitoring them. We were lucky to see them lay eggs from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 21. We then collected the eggs and moved them to the near part of the river because there was some occasional oil contamination there. All eggs were hatched and now there are at least 200 sturgeon babies alive," said Li Pengcheng, a researcher with the Yangtze River Fisheries Research Institute under the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences.

Hatching sturgeon eggs in the wild heavily depends on environmental factors, including the speed of the water in the stream, the temperature, and the significant risks posed by aquatic predators.

That may be reasons why scientists failed to find or detect eggs or small fries in the wild in the past decades, although more than 200,000 adult sturgeons or fries were released, according to Zhou Liang, who has been studying and leading protection efforts of the Yangtze sturgeons for 30 years.

"We did release sturgeons for breeding, but the completely mature ones were less than 100. And some of them may not get used to wild conditions and died, the rest of the surviving sturgeons were then separated into hundreds of kilometers in China, and it's hard for them to meet each other to breed. On the other hand, there are some eggs in the wild, but we can't detect them due to predators," said Zhou.

Working with Rare Aquatic Animal Research Institution of Yibin, Zhou and his institute partners hope to promote the Yangtze sturgeon population to a normal level in the wild by 2030, despite marking and tracking challenges.

They are seeking to conduct more researches and expand experiments to gain more data and experience to help the species breed in the wild.

Int'l consumer products expo in Hainan achieves 100 pct use of green electricity for first time

The third China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE) in south China's Hainan Province achieved 100 percent use of green electricity for the first time, with organizers hoping to stage a green and low-carbon exhibition guided by eco-friendly principles.

The six-day event, which kicked off on Monday in Haikou, the capital of the island province, has this year deployed innovations focusing on environmental protection, from the venue construction right through to its series of displays.

The expo is hoping to play its part in contributing to the country's dual carbon goals of achieving a carbon-dioxide emissions peak in 2030 and carbon neutralization by 2060.

In terms of electricity consumption, this year's expo has cooperated with the country's clean energy producer China General Nuclear Power Group New Energy to complete green electricity transactions of 2 million kWh.

In a historical first, all venues at the expo ran on electricity generated completely from renewable energy sources.

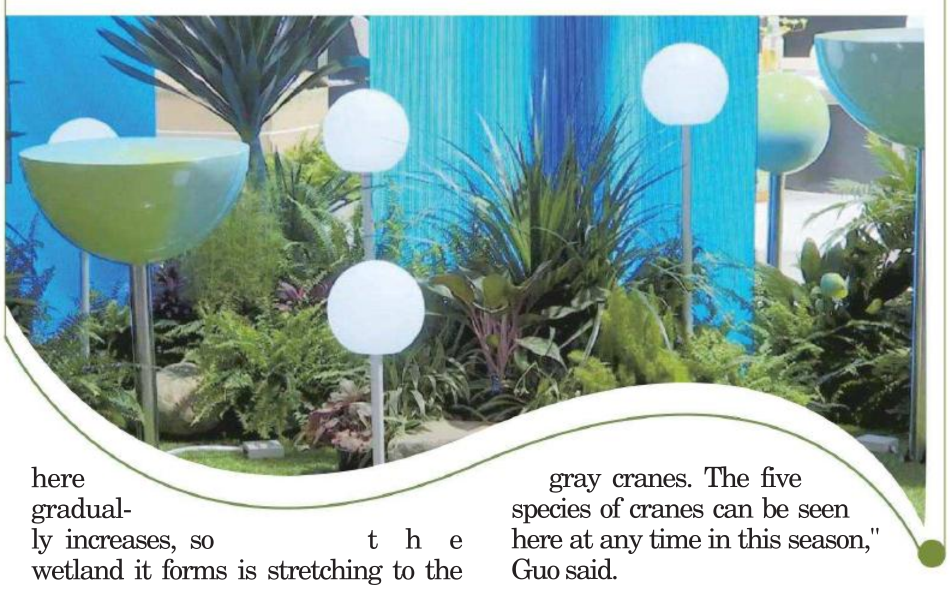
"This year's expo was expected to reduce standard coal consumption by 600 tons and carbon-dioxide emissions by about 1,313 tons. It could play a good role in demonstrating the importance of promoting green development," said Zhang Zhenkai, deputy chief, Exhibition Affairs Group of the third CICPE.

Meanwhile, participants had also adopted green and low-carbon designs in the construction of their exhibition halls, such as utilizing a large amount of recyclable materials.

Environmentally-friendly materials used in the venue's public facilities including service desks accounts for more than 90 percent of the total construction.

In addition, as it looks to spread the message of being more eco-friendly, exhibitors have also organized a series of interactive activities with customers to promote a greener lifestyle, including a special recycling initiative.

"As for exhibitors, the T-mall International booth carried out a program of recycling empty skincare bottles. Attendees could bring their used-up skincare bottles and exchanged them for small gifts," said Zhang.



Unique ecosystem makes Yellow River Delta haven for birds

The unique wetland ecosystem of the Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve in east China's Shandong Province has provided better shelter for not only the area's resident birds, but also new species of migratory birds.

Established in 1992, the Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve is mainly intended to protect the ecosystem and rare and endangered bird species at the river's estuary, and was listed in 2013 on the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

The wetland nature reserve is where the Yellow River, China's second-longest river, meets the Bohai Sea, endowing the place with vitality and wonder.

"This part of the Yellow River Delta here is located between the Laizhou Bay and the Bohai Bay, forming a branch-like [terrain which] stretches forward. It becomes wider and larger as it stretches. So we can say that the Yellow River wetland is swelling. Meanwhile, the amount of sediment here gradually increases, so the wetland it forms is stretching to the sea," said Guo Yumin, professor with Beijing Forestry University.

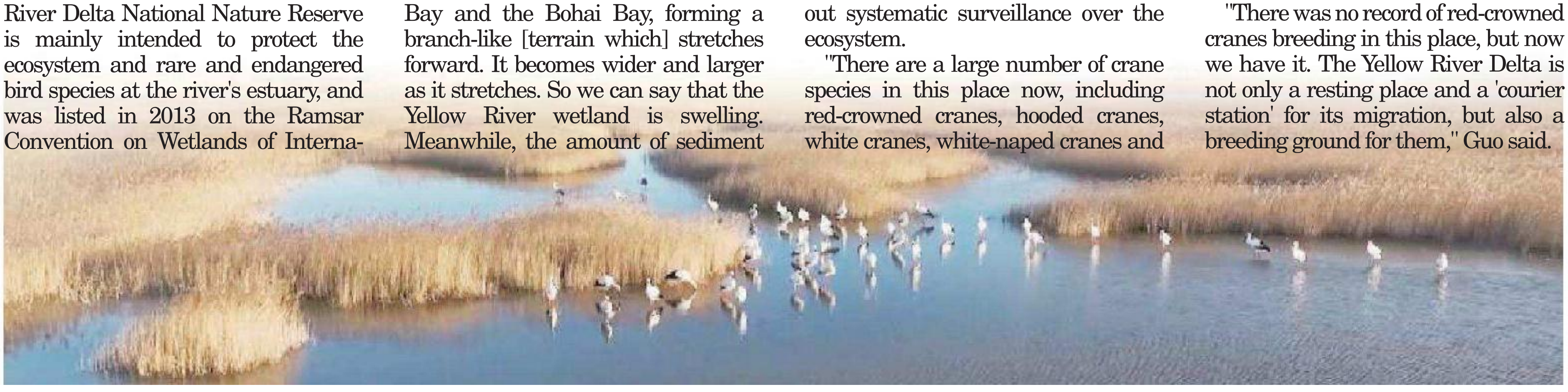
Cranes are particularly eye-catching and are of unique scientific research value in this prestigious bird paradise. Since October 2022, Beijing Forestry University and the monitoring center at the Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve have jointly carried out systematic surveillance over the ecosystem.

"There are a large number of crane species in this place now, including red-crowned cranes, hooded cranes, white cranes, white-naped cranes and gray cranes. The five species of cranes can be seen here at any time in this season," Guo said.

The Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve covers about 153,000 hectares, with the wetlands comprising 70 percent of the total.

Large numbers of birds flock to the reserve for wintering and breeding. The reserve has also seen migratory birds choosing to stay on and become "resident birds."

"There was no record of red-crowned cranes breeding in this place, but now we have it. The Yellow River Delta is not only a resting place and a 'courier station' for its migration, but also a breeding ground for them," Guo said.



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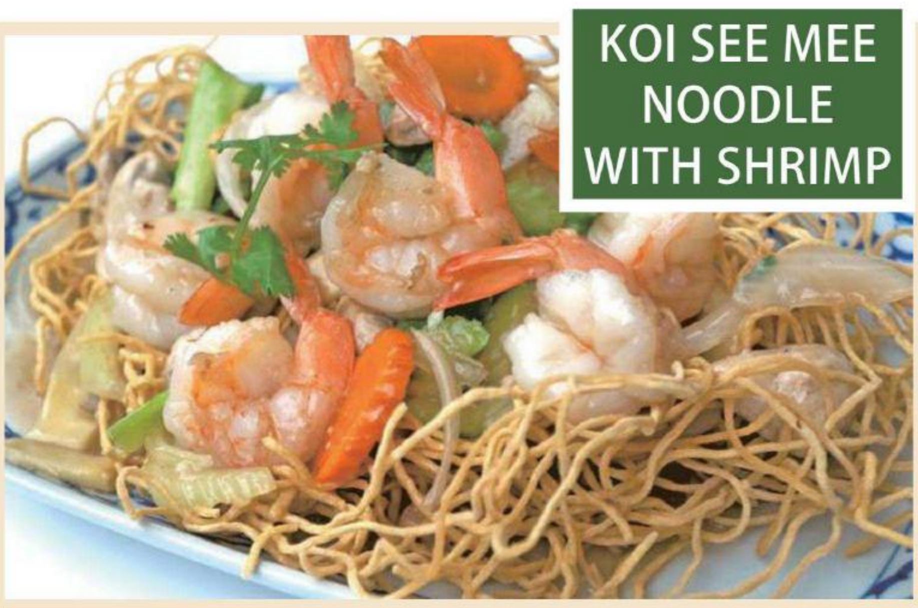
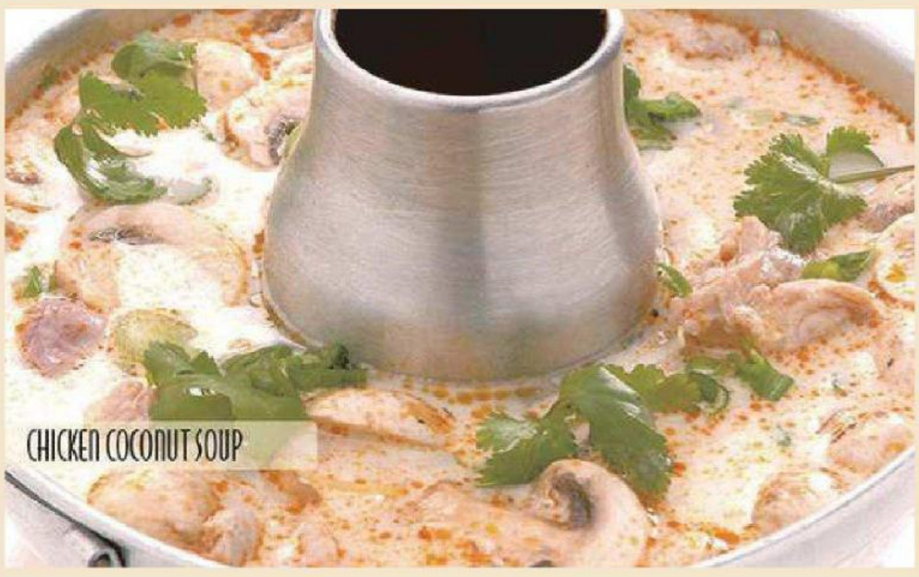
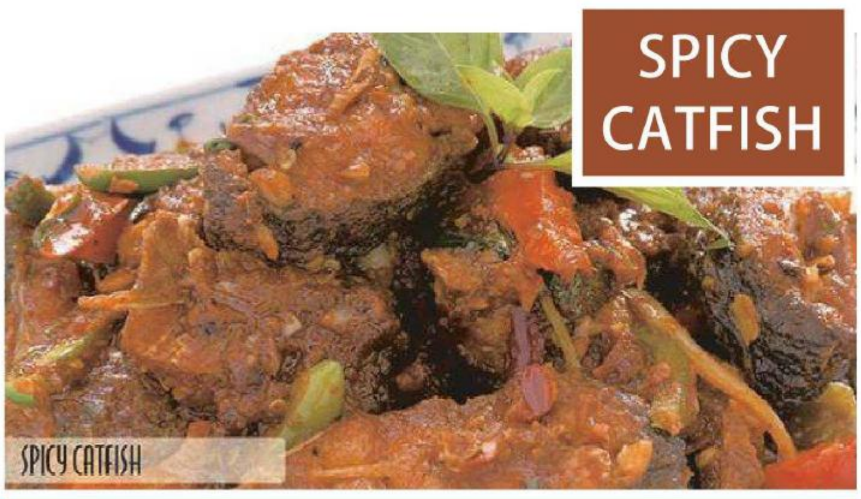


YUMWOONSEN

CHICKEN COCONUT SOUP





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